

JPRS-SEA-89-018  
10 MAY 1989



---

# ***JPRS Report***

## **East Asia**

---

***Southeast Asia***

# East Asia Southeast Asia

JPRS-SEA-89-018

## CONTENTS

10 MAY 1989

### CAMBODIA

#### PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

Correspondent Notes Phnom Penh Social Conditions, Foreigners [Bangkok BANGKOK POST 20 Mar]	1
Relief Agencies Begin Planning Khmer Repatriation [Bangkok THE NATION 3 Apr]	1
Resistance Returnee Comments on Economic Policies [Bangkok THE NATION 15 Mar]	2

### INDONESIA

Editorial on Proposed Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [KOMPAS 11 Apr]	5
NU Chairman Says No Friction Within Party [KOMPAS 21 Mar]	5
Naro's Future as PPP Chairman Uncertain [TEMPO 8 Apr]	6

### LAOS

Trade, U.S. Aircraft Scrap Sales With Thailand [Bangkok BANGKOK POST 2 Apr]	8
Thai Businessmen Gain Bank Licenses [Bangkok BANGKOK POST 30 Mar]	9
Social, Economic Effects of 'Open Door' [Bangkok THE NATION 3 Apr]	9
Latda Pathammavong Profiled [Bangkok BANGKOK POST 3 Apr]	11
'Chao Fa' Resistance Supporters Surrender in Vientiane [PASASON 2 Mar]	11

### MALAYSIA

Defense Ministry Endorses Austrian Rifles [BERITA HARIAN 28 Mar]	13
Air Force Chief Comments on Helicopter [UTUSAN MALAYSIA 1 Apr]	13
Education Minister Urges Commitment To Eradicating Poverty [UTUSAN MALAYSIA 2 Apr]	14
PAS Cooperation With Razaleigh Group Reported [UTUSAN MALAYSIA 31 Mar]	14
Ghaffar Baba Stresses UMNO Unity [UTUSAN MALAYSIA 3 Apr]	15
Ghaffar: UMNO Membership Still Open [UTUSAN MALAYSIA 1 Apr]	15
Commentary on PAS Leadership [UTUSAN MALAYSIA 1 Apr]	16

### THAILAND

Kraisak Comments on Prime Minister Advisors' Role, Access [MATICHON SUT SAPDA 5 Mar]	19
MP Views Chawalit's Economic Development Proposal [DAO SIAM 13 Mar]	22
Sources Comment on Chatchai Office Staff Organization [MATICHON SUT SAPDA 5 Mar]	22
Southern Communists Seek Chatchai Help [BAN MUANG 15 Mar]	24
Deputy CINC Wanchai Discusses Green Northeast Project [BAN MUANG 15 Mar]	24
Director General Oranuj on Trade Strategy [BANGKOK POST 24 Mar]	26
Finance Ministry To Refinance Debt [THE NATION 31 Mar]	28
SAP Official on Foreign Policy, Khukrit Role [SIAM RAT 5 Mar]	29
General, Opinion Leaders Comment on Indochina Policy	30
General Sunthon on Help to Lao Army [DAO SIAM 4 Mar]	30
Columnist Views Policy Changes [DAILY NEWS 8 Mar]	31
MP Criticizes Cambodia Travel Ban [BAN MUANG 2 Mar]	31
Editorial Backs Chatchai [BAN MUANG 4 Mar]	32
Opinion Makers Comment on Indochina Matters	32
Editorial Criticizes Sihanouk, U.S. NCR Support [BAN MUANG 13 Mar]	32
Visitors to SRV, PRK Noted [BAN MUANG 11 Mar]	32
Columnist Hails Chatchai for Cambodia Successes [DAO SIAM 11 Mar]	33
Leading Bankers View NIC Status [SIAM RAT 15 Mar]	33
Opposition Leader on Foreign Policy, Chatchai Performance [SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN]	34

## VIETNAM

### POLITICAL

Editor's Dismissal Generates Public Controversy [Paris DOAN KET No 410]	37
---	----

### MILITARY

Some Localities in HCM City Barely Fill Draft Quotas [SAIGON GIAI PHONG 8 Mar]	38
Truong Son Corps Changes Organization Model [QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 22 Feb]	39
Military Region Commander Evaluates Conscription Efforts [QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 14 Feb]	40
Navy Changes Training Procedures [QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 14 Feb]	41
Hanoi's 1989 Military Induction Criticized [QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 21 Feb]	42
Military Region 9 Promotes National Defense, Economic Efforts [NHAN DAN 10 Apr]	43
Long An Economic-Defense Units Demand Justice [QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 13 Mar]	44

### ECONOMIC

Minister of Interior Visits Ho Chi Minh City [SAIGON GIAI PHONG 8 Mar]	46
Management Changes, 'Open Door' Efforts To Revive Economy [Hamburg DIE ZEIT 24 Mar]	47
Ho Chi Minh City 1988 Marine Product Exports [NHAN DAN 3 Apr]	51
Reasons for Power Shortages in Hanoi [HANOI MOI 16 Mar]	51
Dong Thap Muoi Reclaims Wasteland, Increases Grain Yields [NHAN DAN 14 Mar]	52
Nghe Tinh Province Helps Needy Farm Families [NHAN DAN 4 Apr]	52
Rice Lost on Haiphong-Hanoi Inland Waterways [NHAN DAN 4 Apr]	53
Population Committee Reviews Family Planning Work [HANOI MOI 19 Mar]	54

### SOCIAL

Overseas Vietnamese Visit Motherland [NGUOI CONG GIAO VIETNAM]	55
Ho Chi Minh City Prepares for National Population Census [SAIGON GIAI PHONG 22 Mar]	55
Suburban Land Disputes Continue [SAIGON GIAI PHONG 24 Mar]	56
Population Census Questions, Answers [SAIGON GIAI PHONG 29 Mar]	57
Population Census Registration Procedures [SAIGON GIAI PHONG 28 Mar]	58
Coal Miners Unpaid for Four Months [NHAN DAN 22 Mar]	60
Organizing Good Education for Hoa Children [GIAO VIEN NHAN DAN 13 Mar]	61

## PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

### Correspondent Notes Phnom Penh Social Conditions, Foreigners

42000116b Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English  
20 Mar 89 p 6

[Excerpts] What does one expect on flying into Phnom Penh for the first time in 20 years? One expects abject poverty, a dour hopeless look, perhaps a total metropolitan slum in a country which under the Khmer Rouge could be compared to Jonestown-writ-large.

The bicycles give a clue to one's status in life. The very poor buy Cambodian-made bicycles. They cost about 600 baht and are certainly usable. The Vietnamese-made bikes cost twice as much. They are ungainly, kind of ugly, but I rode them constantly and found them quite comfortable.

The status symbol of bikes are Thai bikes. They have big baskets in front, comfortable pillions (for seating up to a family of four) and show that the owner has prospered in a certain way.

In Phnom Penh, I told the owner of the cottages where I was staying that I would like to ride a bike.

He looked dreamily at me, then smiled.

"Of course," he whispered softly. "Slowly, slowly. Enjoy yourself. See the city. Meet the people." And he gave me his bike for the day. No charge, of course, except for the usual currency—a few cigarettes.

Anyway, my friend was right. I wheeled slowly through the city on a Sunday and met other easy riders. They invited me to their homes, I saw pictures of their dead families (yes, killed by the Khmer Rouge), heard their tales of those terrible years, heard about their "secretly" studying English (they're supposed to be learning Russian and Vietnamese in the schools, but nobody wants to) and made friends so easily.

I know, I know: the People's Republic of Kampuchea is a "Vietnamese puppet," a "Marxist Socialistic State," but both descriptions lose out to the still amiable Buddhist nature of the country.

Buddhism is not a touchy subject, but officials in Phnom Penh try to avoid any "official" comment.

After the Vietnamese invasion in 1979, a rule was passed stating that nobody under 50 could become a monk. While this was supposedly an economic necessity—about 50 per cent of the original seven million population was left, and every hand was needed to get agriculture going again—there must have been some resentment from villagers who went back to their own land. Consequently, the law was often broken, and a few younger monks are seen today.

The law has now been rescinded to a degree. Legally, if a community feels it needs young monks, it can sign a petition, and the government will approve it. In practice, more and more young men are joining the monkhood as the economy straightens out.

The only constant in Phnom Penh is aid. Most of the three-dozen-odd aid groups stay at the old Royal Hotel—now called Samaki (Solidarity) Hotel. The hotel looks gloomy now, far from its heyday in the 1960s and 1970s. But those aid guys and girls are extraordinary. From Norway and America, Switzerland, UK, from Oxfam, from the Lutherans, from children's organisations... Even the missionary groups like World Vision have to put aside their ugly proselytising here in order to actually help.

And help they do. Here are sewer experts from Manchester working on cleaning the sewers of Phnom Penh. (No city plans are left, all destroyed by the Khmer Rouge), here are cattle experts from New York building fences. An East German art expert is helping repair the museum, an Australian ethnomusicologist wearing his sundowner hat, is busy taping the old music, while incidentally working with artists, helping in the archives of old books.

They'll speak with journalists, even have a drink or two at the end of the day. But their work is more important than anything else.

### An amazing group

Finally a local note. Communications with the outside world are indeed dubious in this most inaccessible of all countries. But the Foreign Ministry does receive a variety of international publications, from THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR and WALL STREET JOURNAL to the BANGKOK POST.

In fact, the POST is the favourite newspaper of my Foreign Ministry official guide. What does he like in my own favourite paper? Is it the editorials? The economic news? The analyses? The coverage of both the capitalistic and communistic worlds?

"Oh no," he said. "All of us turn immediately to 'Dear Abby.' She has the most wonderful solutions to all problems."

### Relief Agencies Begin Planning Khmer Repatriation

BK0304035689 Bangkok THE NATION in English  
3 Apr 89 p 3

[Excerpts] As diplomatic efforts to settle the Kampuchean conflict continue, contacts are being established between relief agencies working inside Kampuchea and in Thailand to prepare for a possible repatriation of Khmer refugees.



Early last month, heads of four relief agencies working on the Thai border met with their counterparts in Kampuchea to discuss the repatriation move. It was the first of such meeting aiming to encourage more dialogues between nongovernmental organizations assisting Khmers on both sides of the border.

During the March 2-9 visit, heads of the four agencies also held talks with Phnom Penh government officials from ministries of foreign affairs, education and health. They also visited development project sites and the National Rehabilitation Institute in Phnom Penh.

The trip was initiated by American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), two Western church organizations working inside Kampuchea, and approved by the Phnom Penh government.

Robert Medrala, director of American Refugee Committee, one of the agencies from Thailand, said it was the first official visit to Kampuchea by relief agencies in Thailand. He said previous visits were private and people from Thailand were reluctant to identify themselves as relief workers in Thailand.

He said he feels that the Phnom Penh government is opening up its country.

"If you can help, our door is open to everyone," Medrala cited a phrase that he said was frequently mentioned by Kampuchean officials during the trip. [passage omitted]

The cross-border dialogues the agencies on both sides want to promote are a preparation of the much-talked-about repatriation of Kampucheans at the Thai border.

To formulate the repatriation programme, inputs from people working inside Kampuchea will be needed, said Medrala who went to Kampuchea with his colleagues at Caring for Young Refugees, a Japanese agency, Malteser Hilfsdienst Auslandsdienst E.V., a German organization, and CONCERN, an Irish one. [passage omitted]

#### **Resistance Returnee Comments on Economic Policies**

42000116 Bangkok THE NATION in English  
15 Mar 89 p 8

[Unattributed article: "Phnom Penh Woos Resistance Fighters;" first three paragraphs boxed material]

[Text] Recently many prominent anti-Phnom Penh Khmers quietly returned to Kampuchea under a programme initiated by the government to allow them to observe the improvements in the country.

The most prominent of them is probably Gen In Tam, the ex-commander-in-chief of the Army of Nationalist Sihanoukists, who returned to Kampuchea early this year. Late last month, a group of former resistance

members of the ANS and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) visited Phnom Penh and held extensive talks with PRK's national assembly President Chea Sim, its first Vice Foreign Minister Dit Munty, and officials of various ministries.

One of them talked to Sompong Kittinaradorn on what he saw, heard, and thought during the journey home. Here is the story as recalled by a former resistance member who requested anonymity.

The Phnom Penh regime's call for resistance members to return to the "homeland" is not very new, but the treatment of the visitors has apparently been revised—these days, the "guests" can go anywhere they like and talk to friends in Phnom Penh without a "guide."

When the group met Dit Munty, the first vice foreign minister, the PRK Cabinet member asked the visitors to see the capital with their own eyes rather than listen to his description.

One impression left on the visitors is that PRK leaders are now more frank and open than before. This change was detected following a series of extensive talks with PRK officials at the Defence, Commerce, Industry and Education ministries during the observation tour.

Dit Munty and other senior PRK officials made the same point that all resistance members will be welcome back home. In fact, the PRK is also making preparations for a "voluntary repatriation" of hundreds of thousands of displaced Khmers along the Thai-Kampuchean border, according to the PRK Foreign Ministry sources.

The programme was worked out with cooperation from the UNHCR and displaced Kampucheans who wish to return home can contact the international refugee agency, the sources said.

The preparations include construction of four transit camps: two in Battambang and Seam Reap for those who are to be repatriated on land, another in Kampong Som for those returning by boat and another in Phnom Penh for those to fly back home under the same programme.

PRK officials told the visitors that the regime's main concern now is how to attract foreigners and Kampucheans staying abroad to invest in Kampuchea and rebuild the shambled economy from scratch.

"The major areas where foreign investment is needed is tourism, fishing, gem mining and logging," the Khmer visitor said.

A PRK party member dealing with foreign relations also revealed that the party had passed resolutions for the government to proclaim a set of new laws that will guarantee foreign investment and govern the new economic shift from socialist-style management to a free-market system.

The new laws will be announced before June, the party official said.

"What has prompted the shift when the party itself is a communist party? That's a question I asked him and he replied that capitalism is a necessary road to socialism and that it may take about 20-30 years to accomplish the transformation," he related.

The PRK party member also explained that Pol Pot (the former Khmer Rouge leader) and the Vietnamese made a mistake by by-passing the capitalist step in a bid to realize an early socialist system.

The new laws and regulations to be proclaimed will categorize economic organizations into four groups—family economy, private enterprises, collective economy, private-state joint ventures and state-owned enterprises.

For family enterprises, each family can operate any business without a licence on the only condition that they will not employ non-relatives. For private business, owners have to obtain licences and for private-state joint ventures, the state will allow privately-run companies to operate the business under contract.

In fact, privately-owned shops have been allowed for a while and the visitors were impressed with the flourishing business. "It was not like before any longer," a visitor said.

The laws and regulations to be announced, however, are a "big deal" because the PRK still lacks a legal system to regulate economic activities. "It appears that they are trying to build from scratch," the visitor commented.

On the political front, Phnom Penh is aiming at a national reconciliation and a general election to restore peace and order necessary for stability and economic development.

In this context, they mentioned a "quadripartite coalition government" but when it came to the Khmer Rouge, one of the partners in the three-party resistance coalition, the PRK officials did not try to conceal their dislike for the Khmer Rouge faction.

In line with official statements, Chea Sim maintained that the PRK must not be dismantled in the national reconciliation process. Retorted the House speaker, "Why [top resistance leader] Prince Norodom Sihanouk had to call for the dismantling when he can rule the country if he wins the election?"

Officials appeared convinced that their leaders would win if an election is held and they were ready to let the UN or an international "civilian" team supervise it. (Here, the source may have made a mistake because the PRK has accepted only international supervision, and not UN role in this context.)

Apparently, PRK officials did not sound concerned about the possibility of the Khmer Rouge seizing power after Vietnamese pullout from Kampuchea.

One of the answers was striking—"If the Khmer Rouge returns to power, then Vietnamese troops will be back to oust them under the 25-year treaty of friendship and cooperation we have with Vietnam."

A PRK general admitted in a private conversation that the high rate of desertions and defections within the PRK is posing a major problem.

Why? The answer is simple and still very convincing: The PRK troops are pitifully poor.

A PRK soldier receives an average of only about 200 riel a month (the exchange rate is seven riel per one baht). With that tiny amount, a PRK soldier can barely survive for a few days.

PRK officials with whom the visitors talked hinted of their anti-Vietnamese sentiments. Their message is that they had no choice but accepting what the Vietnamese imposed and they blamed it on the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge when it was in power from 1975 through 1978.

Nonetheless, they believe that the Vietnamese troops will really pull out of Kampuchea in accordance with Hanoi's agreement with the PRK's leadership.

A PRK official admitted that he, too, suspects that some Vietnamese have disguised themselves in PRK uniforms or naturalized as Khmer citizens. But he said there was no evidence. None of the PRK officials appeared knowledgeable about the number of the remaining Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea.

At least for the physical aspect, the Vietnamese presence and influence was not strong as the first years when they reportedly imposed tight control over the PRK regime and the Kampuchean people, according to the visitor.

"On my way from Kampong Som to Phnom Penh via Highway No. 4, I saw no Vietnamese soldiers at a number of check-points," he said.

Inside Phnom Penh, the visitor also spotted no Vietnamese soldier. Most of them are probably staying inside their garrisons outside the down-town area, he observed.

At various ministries they visited, the former Khmer resistance members also detected no Vietnamese presence and therefore, came to the conclusion that Hanoi has withdrawn its advisers from government offices.

And yet, the remaining big question mark is the Vietnamese influence over the Kampuchean communist party which controls the government.

A middle-ranking party member said the party decides its affairs on its own. But street rumours have it that the residences of three top PRK leaders—Hun Sen, President Heng Samrin and Chea Sim—are heavily guarded by Vietnamese troops.

People in Phnom Penh continued saying that married PRK officials who also had Vietnamese wives would get promotion but those who divorced their Kampuchean wives to marry Vietnamese girls would be given "double promotion." Hun Sen is also said to have a "second" Vietnamese wife.

Low-ranking government officials also said that Vietnamese wives are on Hanoi's payroll. "We did not get

confirmation to that affect from high-ranking officials but we can figure out that with a salary of about 700 riel, a PRK leader cannot afford to support two wives," the visitor said.

According to his own observation, PRK officials with a second Vietnamese wife try to keep their affairs secret. "I heard that they keep their "second" wives separately and when the first wife, invariably a Kampuchean, learns of the second's residence, the latter is moved to a new secret house," he said.

Factionalism within the PRK and the party is also another favourite subject of gossip in Phnom Penh. An official even admitted that there are two major groups of power holders, one led by Hun Sen and the other by Heng Samrin.



**Editorial on Proposed Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation**

42130080A Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian  
11 Apr 89 p 4

[Text] Australia has invited the six ASEAN countries along with Japan, South Korea, and New Zealand to work together to form a consultative forum as a means of increasing economic cooperation among the Asia-Pacific (ASPAS) countries.

In this connection, the Australian prime minister specifically delegated Richard Woolcott, secretary general of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade who also functions as the ambassador to Indonesia, the Philippines, and the United Nations, to meet with ministers who deal with activities in the economic sector and foreign ministers of the above-mentioned countries. He arrived in Jakarta on Saturday afternoon [8 April].

The meeting with the ministers of these Asian countries could be called an "exploratory meeting." Australia would like to have their views on this invitation and, if they agreed to this proposal, on how it should be implemented.

However, Australia as the initiator of this increased cooperation, has set the following "restrictions": First, it is not intended that the forum be a new trade bloc. Second, to enable the forum to be effective, the membership should be limited. Third, the purpose of the forum is not to compete with existing regional organizations such as the ASEAN. Fourth, the purpose of the forum is to support the execution of a free, non-discriminatory, multilateral trade system.

The consultative forum proposed by Australia is not meant to be just another forum like or similar to the ASEAN 6 Plus 5 Forum, that is, the consultative forum of the six ASEAN countries plus the five Pacific countries (United States, Australia, Canada, Japan, and New Zealand). The consulting that is done in the 6 Plus 5 Forum might be interpreted as an exchange of views. This exchange of ideas may produce good ideas on how to develop cooperation among the parties involved, but there is no commitment to put them into concrete form.

Australia perhaps would like to create something concrete through the consultative forum which it has now proposed. Via this forum, Australia clearly hopes to be able to reap benefits for its own economic development and to become more firm in its position as a nation in the Asia-Pacific region. It would thus no longer be viewed as a Western nation, and its economy would no longer be tied to West European countries.

Actually, Australia has begun to be successful in liberating itself from the economic sphere of Western nations. In 1983-84, Japan took over the Western nations' position as the primary Australian market. At that time, 26.5 percent of Australian exports flowed to Japan, and 22.3

percent of Australian imports came from the Sakura Nation. Slightly less than 21.6 percent of its imports came from the United States. Australian exports to the ASEAN countries (20 percent) exceeded its exports to the Middle East countries (13 percent). However, its imports from the Middle East in 1983-84 were greater (21 percent) than its imports from ASEAN countries (17 percent).

In the political field also, Australia has tried to orient itself toward Asia and the Pacific. It strengthened cooperation with countries of the South Pacific, and Prime Minister Robert Hawke was courageous enough to hazard Australian relations with the United States. This occurred in 1987 when he told Secretary of State George Shultz in San Francisco that Australian relations with the United States would be strained if the United States passed laws that were disadvantageous to Australian exports or if the United States pressured Japan into buying U.S. meat or coal on terms that were not competitive. Hawke's protest is understandable because Japan, of course, would cut Australian meat and coal imports if it had to buy these commodities from the United States at a lower price.

Earlier Hawke stated that the United States, a superpower which is still its ally, should not feel that everything could be settled definitely in an offhand way.

It is not out of place perhaps for us to say that the Asia-Pacific consultative forum proposed by Australia now is an important vehicle for that Kangaroo Nation to intensify and intensify the implementation of cooperation in this new direction.

Indonesia, which at present also has woven good economic relations with a number of countries that were invited to consider the forum by Australia, apparently to appear as the nucleus of this consultative forum, probably will give favorable consideration to the invitation. This will not destroy ASEAN cooperation but will be of help in reviving and enriching it. By becoming active in the ASPAS consultative forum, ASEAN countries will be able to come out from under the mantle of psychological pressure and unhealthy competition, whether admitted or not, which is now an obstacle to the optimal development of ASEAN cooperation.

**NU Chairman Says No Friction Within Party**

42130074b Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian  
21 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] There is no longer any friction and there are no longer any cliques within the internal circles of the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) [Moslem Scholars]. Reconciliation is moving along smoothly so that the NU is now trying to firm up its role in the nation's process of integration and development.



K[iyai] H[aji] Abdurrahman Wahid, general chairman of the NU's executive board, made this statement after he and K H Ahmad Siddiq, the NU's general chairman, were received by President Suharto at the Bina Graha [Executive Building] yesterday. They had reported on preparations for the NU's 28th Congress, which will take place in Yogyakarta on 25-28 November 1989.

Abdurrahman said that the NU had recovered from the differences of opinion caused by a long period of too much political activity. Various frictions and viewpoints which had arisen because NU members were not yet accustomed to the freedom of taking their own positions in the 1987 general election had now disappeared. "Clique A or clique B no longer exists in the NU, especially after NU members in GOLKAR [Functional Groups Organization], the PPP [United Development Party] and the PDI [Indonesian Democracy Party] had held discussions, and the closeness among those still active in the NU was restated," he said.

He said that the Congress plans to firm up the NU's role in the process of national integration. Two matters are being investigated, the precise formulation of the boundaries of the Islamic community and also the concept of Islamic brotherhood. Abdurrahman believes that this concept cannot be separated from the ties of Indonesian nationhood.

At the same time a report was given on the NU's recent activities, especially on the NU's Fatayat [the NU young womens' organization] activities, which have trained about 5,000 immunization facilitators over the last 4 years.

#### MUI [Indonesian Ulama (Moslem Scholars) Council]

The President also received an MUI group who had just returned from Saudi Arabia. The delegation, led by K H Hasan Basri, MUI's general chairman, had been in Saudi Arabia from 16 to 28 February 1989.

The Indonesian and Saudi ulamas had agreed to step up exchanges of ulamas between the two countries. An agreement was also reached to increase the number of institutions teaching Arabic in Indonesia.

The president thanked MUI for taking part in investigating and taking a position on the book *The Satanic Verses* by Salman Rushdie, which has caused such a commotion.

#### Naro's Future as PPP Chairman Uncertain 42130080B Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian 8 Apr 89 p 16

[Text] The next United Development Party Congress will be held in August, but there already are signs that J. Naro must fight hard to be re-elected as general chairman of the PPP [Partai Persatuan Pembangunan—United Development Party].

Voices have already been raised about it in several areas. "The number of votes for the PPP fell slightly in the past election. So, I believe the PPP now needs regeneration and stimulation," said Karmani, chairman of the Central Java PPP DPW [Regional Executive Council].

Similar voices were raised in the Yogyakarta, Jakarta and North Sumatra PPP Regional Executive Councils (DPW). On Monday of this week [3 April], Dr H. M. Djufrie, chairman of the Jakarta PPP DPW, issued a press release rejecting the renomination of Naro in the coming congress.

Djufrie accused Naro of being responsible for certain items included in the PPP Statutes (AD) and the By-laws (ART) that did not conform to Law No 3 of 1975 concerning political parties and GOLKAR.

Actually, Naro was aware of this. In December 1985 he issued a resolution correcting various items in the AD/ART. Was it done? "Changes in the AD/ART can only be made through the congress. Pak Naro actually could have done this by holding an extraordinary congress. But he did not do this," Djufrie said.

The North Sumatra PPP DPW consecutively, on 16, 22 and 23 March, sent letters to the POLDA [regional police], PANGDAM [military region commander] and the North Sumatran governor reporting that a person on the PPP DPP [Central Executive Council] was prevailing upon the board of the North Sumatra PPP branch to support Naro.

"We disapprove of the use of such means because they conflict with the resolution of the North Sumatra PPP Regional Working Conference (KONKERWIL) held in early March," remarked a source on the North Sumatra PPP DPW. One of the KONKERWIL resolutions stated that no name would be placed in nomination in the coming congress for the position of general chairman. The conference merely decided on criteria for the position, one of which was: the candidate for the position of general chairman had to be a PPP cadre who rose up from the ranks. This could be interpreted that Naro did not meet this criterion.

The "person" the source had in mind apparently was Sori Tua Siregar. As of 12 March 1989, this member of the DPR [Parliament], representing the PP [United Development] Faction from North Sumatra, visited PPP branches in that province in an attempt to get support for Naro. According to this source, not one branch was swayed by Sori Tua Siregar.

Actually, the PPP Party Council meeting held in Jakarta on 16 January 1988 had decided to nominate Naro again at the 1989 congress. "All the PPP DPW chairmen

attended this meeting, and they signaled approval with their hands," said Soeleiman Fadeli. Therefore, the East Java PPP DPW was surprised that some DPW's were now reported as not supporting Naro. East Java, he said, stood by the decision of the Party Council.

Mardinsyah, the PPP secretary general, calculated that about 60 percent of the regions supported Naro's nomination. "That some now are trying to withdraw their support is permissible. Morally, however, it is not ethical," he said.

Of course it is of interest to ask the question: Why is Naro—who earlier was admired by the PPP—now beginning to be abandoned? Of course, there is another problem along with that of the AD/ART. This was revealed in a

bulletin issued to the press by H. M. Djufrie. In it he recalled Naro's negligence as noted in the autobiography, SOEHARTO—MY IDEAS, SPEECHES, AND MEASURES.

In that book, President Soeharto touched on the nomination of Naro for vice president in the MPR SU [People's Consultative Assembly General Session] of March 1988. In this case, among other things, Pak Harto said the PP Faction as well as Naro merely used their rights but did not meet their obligations (see Pak Harto's book....)

Presumably Jailani Naro himself is not bothered that much about the areas that turned against him. "I am not a prophet in this matter. Even a prophet with 10 friends finds that their views of him vary," he told TEMPO in Surabaya last week. If some now strike out against him, "That is the way people are," Naro said.

**Trade, U.S. Aircraft Scrap Sales With Thailand**  
42000120a Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English  
2 Apr 89 p 2

[Text] Chong Mek, Ubon Ratchathani—Business at this border pass, about 90 kilometres from the main provincial town, has been booming since the Cabinet decided to open a checkpoint here to boost trade with Laos.

Several million baht is believed to be circulating at markets on both sides of the border.

On reaching the pass at Chong Mek, those who visited this part of the border as recently as a month ago will find it completely changed.

About 100 metres from the border, about 200 makeshift stalls with patched roofs have been erected on both sides of the road.

Hundreds of merchants, most of them from Phibul Mangsahan District, 40 kilometres from the border, offer their goods to Laotians who flock here to get things they cannot find in Pakse, a major town in southern Laos about 40 kilometres from the other side of the border.

Goods on sale at the Thai market include ready-made clothes, plastic ware, soap, flashlight batteries, soft drinks, seasonal fruit, canned milk and other necessities.

Pla thu, or tuna fish, sells like hot cakes, and almost every Laotian visitor goes home with a large quantity of the fish. Apples are available, but they do not seem to sell very well.

The market opened on March 1, but customs and immigration officials there said that only after the recent elections in Laos did the border trade take off.

Nearly 1,000 Laotians were seen at the Thai market yesterday. Most said they were from Ban Wang Tao and Muang Phon Thong in Khouong Champassak and some said they had come from as far away as Pakse.

Many minibuses were soon running to the border with goods while makeshift stalls were put up in a hurry. It is certain that the size of the market on the Thai side will grow rapidly in the next week.

Not only Laotians come to the market. Thai people also visit while on their way to the Lao market about 200 metres over the border.

Two or three buses a day take tour groups across the border from Chong Mek to Pakse, according to an immigration officer at the checkpoint.

Just over the border, there are five buildings with corrugated steel roofs and open sides. One is used as a Lao market where about 100 vendors offer goods.

Most favoured by Thai customers is cloth said to be made in Vietnam. The prices are cheap—ranging from 8-25 baht a metre. Also available in large quantity are table cloths, each about four metres long and a metre wide, for 25 baht apiece. Good quality towels are sold for 10-12 baht each.

Apart from the cloth, wild products also fetch a lot of money from the Thais. There are rattan baskets, meat, hides and horns of wild animals.

A pair of deer horns costs 3,000 baht while a pair of gaur horns is 3,500 baht.

A pack of Laotian cigarettes is 15 baht, or 130 baht a carton, while a pack of Western cigarettes is 25 baht.

The most expensive item waiting to be transported across the border was scrap iron salvaged from the wreckage of airplanes downed during the American war in Laos in the 70s.

Five trucks, fully loaded with scrap iron, were seen yesterday on the Lao side of the border. Their drivers said the metal had been bought by private Thai traders in a deal with the Lao Government.

They said the scrap iron came mostly from Saravane Province in southern Laos, the scene of heavy U.S. bombing more than 15 years ago. They said there are many aircraft wreckages all over southern Laos as well as in other parts of the country.

"I believe airplane scrap will continue to be sent over to Thailand, and even a year from now, there will still be plenty," said one of the truckers.

Thais who wish to travel across the border at Chong Mek, to visit the Lao market or further to Pakse in Khouong Champassak, can obtain a border pass from the provincial office at the city hall here.

With the pass, they can stay in Laos for three days. Those going to see relatives or for business can stay in Laos for seven days and 30 days respectively.

Thais who only want to cross the border to the Lao market can get a temporary pass at the immigration checkpoint by showing an ID card. They must go across the border and return the same day during office hours, from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

On the Lao side, they have to pay an immigration fee of 10 baht before going to the market. Laotians who wish to come to the Thai market have to pay 200 kip at this office as well.

**Thai Businessmen Gain Bank Licenses**  
42000120c Bangkok *BANGKOK POST* in English  
30 Mar 89 p 28

[Excerpt] The Laotian Government has granted a second commercial banking licence to a Thai businessman, a leading banker said yesterday.

Thai Farmers Bank senior executive vice president Narong Srisa-an said the second licence was granted to Gen Nual Chantree. This followed the issuing of a licence to Khunying Suwannee Puapairoj.

"Our team was told of the move on a recent visit to Laos, but we do not know Gen Nual," Mr Narong said.

However, both licences were granted on condition that the Thai groups invest a maximum of 30 percent of equity in the commercial banks under licence, "and both Khunying Suwannee and Gen Nual are required to submit details of their projects to the Laotian central bank for approval before permission is granted."

Mr Narong said the TFB team was told by the Laotian Government during the visit that Vientiane would issue laws to facilitate all investments. "For example, in the banking business, the Vientiane Government agreed to issue mortgage laws and land-ownership laws."

It would also restructure its foreign-exchange system so there would be an official exchange rate in Laos; foreign-exchange rates set by the Laotian Government and those quoted in the market were different, he said.

Mr Narong added that deposit rates in Laos ranged from 7.5 percent to 18 percent per annum, while lending rates depended on which economic sector the loan was being extended to. "For example, the lending rate to agriculture and forestry is 10.5 percent and to construction 17 percent."

Meanwhile, Thai Military Bank president Anuthra Asvanonda said TMB had received permission from the Laotian Government to set up a representative office in that country. The bank was expected to open the office by mid-year.

"We sought permission to set up a representative office in Laos instead of opening a full branch because we believe it would be difficult for a bank branch to mobilize savings in that country."

**Support**

"More and more Thai businessmen intend to invest there, so the main business of a Thai bank will be the provision of support and advice for them. Therefore, the operation of a representative office will be more feasible and flexible," Mr Anuthra said.

TMB first vice president Thanong Lamyai added that TMB would be the first foreign commercial bank to open an office in Laos since the communists came to power in 1975.

The bank received approval from the Laotian Government earlier this month to open the office in Vientiane, he said, adding, however, that it still required approval from the Bank of Thailand.

The central bank is expected to issue approval in the next two months for the office which will be very small and will not have all the functions of a branch, such as the capability of receiving savings deposits. It will mainly provide financial support for Thai businessmen now increasing investments in Laos.

Laotian communists banned the operation of all foreign commercial banks after taking power, but in recent years, the more orthodox aspects of their economic policies have been relaxed. [passage omitted]

**Social, Economic Effects of 'Open Door'**  
42000120d Bangkok *THE NATION* in English  
3 Apr 89 p 8

[Article by Tom Nagorski: "New Vision in Laos"]

[Excerpts] Vientiane—In candid conversations with reporters, Lao officials spoke last week of cottage industries, private farm plots, about a fresh clique of wealthy businessmen in the capital of this socialist country.

"You cannot call it socialism anymore," said a Press Department official. "We have new freedoms and there is great flexibility for our people. How can you call this a socialist country?"

At a secondary school in Luang Prabang province, some 250 kilometres north of Vientiane, teenagers study the history of revolutionary movements, including the one that brought the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) to power in 1975. A school administrator said classrooms are kept free of talk of the regime which ruled Laos before then.

"We teach them about the revolutionary struggles," explained headmaster Visai Thepmethe, 34. "They do not need to learn about the King, and the old ways. They are not so interested in that." [passage omitted]

**Fresh Opportunities**

Today's LPRP policy, still authored by party founder and Prime Minister Kaysone Phomvihane, encourages cottage industry and a break from strict cooperative-style production. Officials said the bulk of Lao industries are now privately operated.



The new side economies are taking a variety of forms. State workers in Vientiane have turned to the service industry by night, running the restaurants, or discotheques. Private night schools supplement state education for students, and the state wage for teachers.

"The more ambitious young people have come to us," said Phounan, a former administrator at a Luang Prabang school who now offers night courses in physics and math. "It is good for (the students) and for my family as well."

The less ambitious can spend their evenings at one of at least three video theatres that have cropped up in Luang Prabang, a town low on electricity and most modern forms of entertainment. Six times weekly, Bounoum Keopanya and three friends present a Thai double-feature, the tapes played by VCR on a small television screen. Their auditorium—rice sacks held up by a dozen bamboo poles—is built and brought down each night.

Bounoum said he pays 500 kip (Bt25) to rent each cassette and collects 50 kip per person for admission. Outside, vendors sell cigarettes and candies. On a weekday night, Bounoum's outdoor theatre has nearly two hundred customers.

At a handicrafts cooperative in Pha Nom, just outside the city of Luang Prabang, weavers sell silk sarongs to the local market for a state-set price of 2,000 kip. The Pha Nom workers can finish a sarong in two or three days.

But they also deal to merchants at a new market that caters to tourists. Tourism in Pha Nom village is thin—in a good week, three small groups will visit the cooperative. The new merchants, however, have learned an aggressive sales style, out of place in the quiet village but commercially effective. Sarongs there sell for 8,000 kip apiece.

In an older, now legitimized trade, villagers pan for gold along the Nam Ou River, a Mekong River tributary northeast of Luang Prabang. Opposite the village of Thin Hong, entire families work, digging along the riverbank, carrying sand to the water's edge and sifting through the residue. They sell what they find to middlemen and to local markets—a business that nets between 10,000 and 20,000 kip per month.

Per capita income in Laos was \$155 last year, one of the world's lowest figures. At current exchange rates, the equivalent figures are Bt4,000, or 77,500 Lao kip.

But at the Luang Prabang theatre, Bounoum said he and his friends clear between 4,000 and 5,000 kip in an evening, to be shared four ways. A woman panning for gold along the Mekong said she had earned over 500,000 kip (Bt25,000) last year. No one has measured the benefits being won by a few Vientiane residents whose

contacts have reportedly put them at the forefront of a new Lao industry: consulting, for the rush of foreign investors who have shown interest in Laos.

"They are saying 'Laos can have rich people, it can have family business, it can have free enterprise'" said an Asian diplomat in Vientiane. "They will allow many things if they can improve production here, and bring capital from abroad."

#### Laos' Open Door

Fresh capital, and more investors, are coming through "the open door" that is a part of virtually every conversation and official pronouncement about chintanakan mai. The Lao Ministry of Commerce said it has received formal applications for 68 foreign investment projects, with a total worth estimated at \$40 million. Twenty-seven of the projects have been authorized, officials said.

The big-money ventures are in petroleum exploration, mining, logging and tourism. The Commerce Ministry said it was reviewing Thai applications to build hotels in Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Savannakhet and Pakse. A US investor has signed a contract to begin construction on a hotel that will more than triple the number of rooms in Luang Prabang.

Commerce Ministry officials said they would move to protect these and other projects, in the wake of reports that Lao businessmen had failed to honour joint-venture commitments. Deputy Commerce Minister Sompadit Vorasane also said authorizations for ventures would depend more on financial commitment than investor expertise.

"There should be no problem with these projects," said Sompadit. "In most cases, it is only a question of capital."

#### The Political Line

[Passage omitted] In Luang Prabang, current province Governor and Central Committee member Vongphet Saikou-Yachongtouna said Lao re-education camps had ceased to operate but defended their role.

"Now they are conscientious," Vongphet said of a group which was released from a Luang Prabang camp early last year. "They have learned that if they serve the new regime they can work. They know that those who are against the government can be punished."

At Luang Prabang's School Number One, where "Economics of Socialist Countries" and "Revolutionary History" are standard classroom fare, students on their last day of their last year are brought for a tour of the Royal Palace, the former home of King Savang Vatthana and now a museum of pre-revolutionary Laos.

In the years of schooling which precede the class trip, the headmaster insisted, students do not ask about the old regime.

"There is no reason to discuss the old ways," Visai Thepmethe said.

Weren't the old ways an important part of Lao history?

"Most of our students were not yet born then," Visai said. "We bring them to the palace. They do not ask many questions." [passage omitted]

#### **Latda Pathammavong Profiled**

42000120b Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English  
3 Apr 89 p 30

[Excerpts] Latda Pathammavong, divisional chief of the International Organisation Department of Laos, looks almost too young to be a mother. But at 35, she already has three children, ages 15, 13 and 11.

She is also remarkably chic in appearance, wearing fashionable blouses over the phaa sinn uniform of Lao civil servants. It comes as no surprise to learn that the blouses are from Paris, sent to her by her parents and siblings who make their home in France.

Born in Luang Prabang, she completed high school in Laos before going to France for her bachelor's degree between 1970 and 1977, studying Political Science. In 1977 she returned to her homeland to work for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and married a fellow diplomat.

In the 12 years that she has been in this field of work, she has dealt with numerous international affairs organisations. A major part of her time is spent travelling overseas for discussions, so that she sees very little of her own home.

Latda is without a doubt the most widely-travelled woman in Laos. She assumes responsibilities close to that of a director of a division dealing with international organisations, for no one else in the Foreign Affairs Ministry is as knowledgeable as she about the problems of refugees. [passage omitted]

Latda was born into a wealthy family of good social standing. She said that her family's lifestyle was relatively unaffected by the country's change in government as they had nothing against the new administration. "I never felt we were under pressure in any way, because the new government never tried to force us into doing anything." [passage omitted]

#### **'Chao Fa' Resistance Supporters Surrender in Vientiane**

42060044c Vientiane PASASON in Lao 2 Mar 89 p 2

[Article: "Getting Fed Up With 'Chao Fa'"]

[Excerpts] The afternoon of Sunday 26 February 1989. Prior to boarding a ship heading back to Vientiane Capital after taking care of personal errands in Ban Phonsavat, a region under Horn District, Vientiane Province, I stopped by to see Comrade Sonsai Soudavan, acting regional chief. The appointment had been arranged the day before. [passage omitted] Comrade Sonsai said to me, "For you, a reporter, today I have some very recent news!"

"What is it?" I asked.

"They surrendered!" he responded.

I figured out at once that it could mean those who were taken by force to live in the jungle with the enemy, the so-called 'Chao Fa.'

"How many of them?" I asked.

"Fifty-five!"

"Where did they come from?"

"Over in the Pha Ngon and Sanphiang areas under Saisomboun District!"

A minute later everyone at the meeting in the office, including district officials, the regional committee, and the Ban Phon Savat Front people all went out to where two big ships carrying Lao Soung people were anchored in port.

Meanwhile, the people in Ban Phon Savat who were passing by stopped and crowded over and looked with interest at those who had just come out of the jungle.

The welcome committee itself was very busy. I carefully observed those who had surrendered to the administrative committee, and I saw mostly old people, women, and small children. Everyone seemed to be thin and pale yellow, as if with malaria. Some of the faces of the old people were swollen (this, I later learned, was because they craved opium). Nearly all of them wore torn clothes and had no shoes. Women with untidy hair carried small children on their backs. Some small children had no clothing. You could see their stomachs and their legs were so full of dirt they resembled scales. They had very few household belongings with them, and each person carried only a sack or basket. Some had only a knife and an old pot, and no one had even a grain of rice to eat. [passage omitted]

After talking with some of them, I learned they were all ordinary people. The 'Chao Fa' had taken them by force a few years ago into the jungle. Some of their sons and husbands were forced to become soldiers.

Early this year there was an additional number of 'Chao Fa' men. Some had heard that this group of people took orders directly from General Thonglit Chokbengbounma. They had recently ordered the people to collect in one location, and no one was allowed to go out.

The people told these men they wanted to clear the land for rice growing, because it was the season for farming. However, they were not allowed and were told they would be given money to buy rice, and there was no need to worry.

Also, the 'Chao Fa' threatened the people, and if they disobeyed they would be killed. Meanwhile, everyone was starving. Some became sick and died, yet even so no one was allowed to go elsewhere.

One day we heard news that the soldiers of the LPA had blocked off the Pha Ngon and Sanphiang and other areas to get rid of the enemy forces. The 'Chao Fa' had secretly planned to take the people to another location which they said was a safe area, and that they would kill anyone who refused to leave.

"We thought that if we went with them we would probably not live. Then we fled. On the day we fled we were followed by some 'Chao Fa' who wanted to kill us

all. But they could not find us because we went in another direction." Comrade Heung Fong, a Hom District cadre, translated for me what was said by an old Lao Soung man.

"How many days did it take to get here?"

"Over 10 days."

"How did you feel before you came out to surrender?"

"Very afraid. We were afraid you would tie us up or shoot us. Yet we did not hesitate. Everyone thought you would not kill us."

Because of the limited time the welcome committee took them to a big house where they would stay temporarily. An arrangement was made to fetch some rice for them in the collective warehouse. They were allowed to go out and buy food and other things they needed.

I heard Comrade Heung Fong speak with them: "We want you to feel secure and comfortable. We will care for you the best we can. Now we want you to rest in order to wait for the province and district officials to come and meet you and decide where you should live."

"We are ready to give our lives, and will do anything the administrative committee wants of us."

Because the time did not allow, I did not hear the detailed reports of their experiences during their stay with the 'Chao Fa.' However, I knew that those people were really fed up with the 'Chao Fa.'

**Defense Ministry Endorses Austrian Rif**  
42130076a Kuala Lumpur *BERITA HARI*  
28 Mar 89 p 6

[Text] Sungai Besi, 27 March—The government has approved the request of the Ministry of Defense to purchase "Steyr AUG" rifles from Austria, which will include improvements requested by the Malaysian Army (ATM).

Gen Hashim Mohamad Ali, commander of the Army, said that the agreement on the purchase of the weapons has been signed with Steyr-Daimler-Puch AG, the company manufacturing them.

However, he did not say how much money was allocated to purchase the weapons or for each of the rifles concerned.

It is believed that the cost of the 5.56 mm caliber rifle is 3,000 Malaysian dollars per unit, and it is believed that they will begin to be used by the Army by the beginning of 1991 at the latest.

General Hashim said: "The Army needs 10,000 rifles per year, beginning in 1991, so that the modernization of the ATM will be completed by the year 2000."

He made this statement to reporters after observing a ceremony filled parade in honor of the paramount ruler of Malaysia and his consort in Sungai Besi on 27 March. The ceremony should have been held here on 1 April.

General Hashim said that the purchase of the defensive weapons indirectly proved that the government is not bound to British equipment, although a memorandum of understanding with Great Britain on the purchase of weapons valued at 4.0 million Malaysian dollars has been signed.

The Steyr AUG rifle is manufactured especially for Asian countries and is presently being used by countries throughout the world, including Saudi Arabia, Oman, New Zealand, Tunisia, Ecuador, Ireland, and Australia.

The special feature of the rifle is that a large part of its components will not rust because they are made of a compound of certain plastic materials. Furthermore, aluminum is used in the metal parts of this rifle, which weighs only 8 pounds.

The components of the Steyr AUG rifle may be changed as necessary. The rifle in the "bull pup" configuration also has a long range telescope to help a soldier track and kill an enemy.

The use of this rifle may also reduce training time and costs by up to 40 percent when new recruits are brought into the Army.

The weapon is easy to handle and does not require special equipment to open up its respective parts if it is damaged.

Regarding developments in the Royal Malaysian Air Force (TUDM), General Hashim said that Lt Gen Mohamed Ngah Said, its commander, as well as several of his officers were leaving for Bandung, Indonesia, on 27 March to bring back a Super Puma helicopter which has been purchased from Indonesia.

The helicopter cost 27 million Malaysian dollars, including the cost of training pilots while they are in Bandung. It is expected to arrive at the Royal Malaysian Air Force base at Subang on 29 March.

**Air Force Chief Comments on Helicopter**  
42130077a Kuala Lumpur *UTUSAN MALAYSIA* in  
Malay 1 Apr 89 p 4

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 31 Mar—The commander of the Air Force, Lieutenant General Tan Sri Mohd. Ngah, said he is satisfied with the VIP version of the Super Puma NS-332 that Malaysia has bought from Indonesia.

The Air Force chief, who piloted the helicopter here from Bandung today, said the Super Puma NS-332 is fitted with modern technology equipment conforming to specifications Malaysia stipulated in the purchase contract.

"The delivery of the helicopter is a little late because it is the first VIP version produced by the Nusantara Aircraft Industry (IPTN). Thus, its specifications were special," he told a press conference after landing the new helicopter at the Kuala Lumpur TUDM [Royal Malaysian Air Force] Station this morning.

Lt Gen Tan Sri Mohd. Ngah said the contracted price of the helicopter was about 26 million ringgits, which includes the cost of spare parts and training for pilots and technical team.

He stated that although the helicopter is especially for the transportation of important people it can also be used for normal flight tasks, including use as a communications platform during search and rescue (SAR) operations.

The Super Puma NS-332 helicopter, built under license from Aerospatiale of France, was modified for transportation of eight VIP's and two crew members. It is equipped with air conditioning.

It will be under the control of TUDM Squadron 10, which is responsible for helicopters.



As for the Super Puma NS-332's flight home, Lt Gen Tan Sri Mohd. Ngah said he and Lieutenant Colonel Lim Thau Liang flew the helicopter from the IPTN plant in Bandung, leaving there at 0930 yesterday and arriving in Medan at 1800.

"We continued our trip at 1000 hours today and arrived here safely at 1130. We flew at 8,000 feet and at a speed of 120 kilometers per hour. Everything was okay, except for the HF [high frequency] radio, which was not very clear," he said.

**Education Minister Urges Commitment To Eradicating Poverty**  
42130077c Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA  
in Malay 2 Apr 89 p 3

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 1 Apr—Minister of Education Anwar Ibrahim declared that all ideas and grand visions for the future of the Malaysian people will lose their moral justification if programs for resolution of the problems of the poor and destitute consist only of slogans or incidental policies.

He said Malays must not make the end of 1990 the end of commitment to pure ideals for creating social justice.

On the contrary, he asserted, Malays must take the opportunity to forge thought among intellectuals so as to give new direction to their commitment to these ideals.

"It is our responsibility to ensure that no group will be overlooked and lost in the vicious circle of poverty while we boast of success in achieving our goal of restructuring society," he said.

Anwar said this at the opening session of the after-1990 Symposium at the Language and Library Council here today.

Anwar said that the Implementation and Coordination Unit (ICU) of the Prime Minister's Department has identified 215,000 destitute families in Malaysia and that it is within the government's capability to protect their future.

He wants Malays to view the 1990's courageously and realistically, for it is only such an attitude that will guarantee their ability to effectively meet the challenges of the period after 1990.

He said the people may not like fluctuations in currencies like the yen and the dollar that have such a profound effect on the national economy.

Nevertheless, he said, this is a reality that must be faced with determination and wisdom.

**Domination**

"Economic management slogans like 'economic independence' and 'national determination' indeed have a nice sound, but they will only bring deterioration and isolation," he said.

He said that, although Malays realize that the market structure and the existence of monopoly and domination of the national economy by certain ethnic groups often hinder Bumiputra [Malays and other indigenous peoples] penetration of certain sectors, such things need not weaken the competitiveness of Bumiputra businessmen.

He gave the assurance that the government will continue to support the Bumiputra, not only in competing in conventional trade but also in opening up new business sectors.

Anwar declared that, in his view, the future success of Malay and Bumiputra participation in the industrial and business sectors will be very dependent on human factors.

He said, "It is people that determine whether facilities like capital and technology will be used effectively and competently."

**PAS Cooperation With Razaleigh Group Reported**  
42130076b Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA  
in Malay 31 Mar 89 p 15

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 30 March—The Advisory Assembly of PAS [Pan Malaysian Islamic Party] has ordered its executive body to give priority to strengthening relations with the splinter group led by Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

Subky Latif, chairman for information of the central organization of PAS, stated that the Advisory Assembly, which met recently, declared this action a "must" from the legal point of view because Razaleigh and his associates have given a commitment to accept the application of fundamental Islamic principles as advocated by PAS.

Speaking to a representative of UTUSAN MALAYSIA whom he met at the PAS Training Center at Taman Melewar during a meeting of the congress of the PAS Youth Council, Subky declared that the Advisory Assembly has turned over the next step in carrying out this task to the PAS executive body, that is, to its political leaders.

Subky said that a high level committee chaired by Hassan Shukri and Subky himself will play an important role. The committee was originally organized to hold discussions with UMNO [United Malay National Organization] regarding the unity of the Malay community.

Subky made this statement in answering a question whether the Advisory Assembly had previously been asked for its views regarding such cooperation.

Several groups have charged previously that the Advisory Assembly has moved too slowly in dealing with these matters.

Subky declared that it is not true that the Advisory Assembly has moved too slowly in dealing with such basic questions. Indeed, an order has been issued that welcoming the hand of friendship from Tengku Razaleigh is a "must."

When the assembly issued the "must" order, this did not necessarily mean that the action needed to be continued or that it could not be done directly.

He said: "We saw this as an opportunity to build unity and seek a way of resolving the question dividing our community through ties of friendship with Tengku Razaleigh's group. Indeed, we know when it is time to forgive someone and be friendly with a person who was once our enemy."

When he was asked why PAS could behave in a friendly way with this splinter group but could not do the same with UMNO, Subky added that the problem now is that UMNO is not prepared to meet for discussions around the table. He said: "This is a UMNO problem but not a PAS problem."

Subky added that it is admitted that the split in the Malay community was caused, among other things, by the establishment of UMNO and PAS.

However, he said that UMNO did not answer the request from PAS for the formation of a special committee to discuss the future unity of the Malay community.

He added: "Because UMNO did not agree to setting up such a committee, we chose to fill that vacuum with the splinter group led by Tengku Razaleigh because they showed an interest in the basic program of PAS."

Meanwhile, Nik Aziz Nik Mat, chairman of the Council of Ulama [Muslim scholars] of PAS, said that the party will cooperate with the UMNO splinter group, with Berjasa, and with the Chinese Consultative Council (CCC) in dealing with the coming general elections.

He said that this cooperation is important for reaching agreement on the unity of the Malay community and in changing the existing system of government.

He met with a UTUSAN MALAYSIA representative during a recess in the 30th congress of the PAS Central Youth Council, which was held at the PAS Training Center at Taman Melewar near Kuala Lumpur on 30

March. He said: "There is nothing wrong in our cooperating with these groups, because the basic foundation of PAS is Islam, and Islam is a religion for everyone."

According to him, PAS relations with the splinter group are a continuation of its contacts with the CCC, which were undertaken some time ago.

**Ghafar Baba Stresses UMNO Unity**  
42130077d Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA  
in Malay 3 Apr 89 p 3

[Text] Sik. 2 Apr—Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said UMNO members need to assure unity in the party as an initial preparation for the next general election.

He said members must be willing to start now and not think the election is still far in the future.

UMNO members must also ensure calm and stability in the party. The crises experienced by UMNO have in fact further strengthened the party, he told UMNO members attending a meeting at a public hall here yesterday.

He also said Malay support for UMNO is now on the increase, judging by the fact that membership has now reached 1.1 million.

He hoped UMNO soon will be able to reach a membership of 1.5 million.

Ghafar said the people should want UMNO to maintain its record of victory by another win in the next election.

**Not Running**

Alor Setar: UMNO Secretary-General Datuk Mohamed Rahmat asked party members not to run for high offices at any level at the next UMNO General Assembly in order to avoid the appearance of division in the party.

With respect to this, he asked that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba be retained in their positions, and similarly for other positions at all levels.

This will be one way to ensure that UMNO unity remains strong in spite of the various tests it must face in its struggle for the future of Malays, he told a meeting held here today for presentation of UMNO membership certificates and dues receipts to UMNO division leaders from throughout Kedah.—BERNAMA

**Ghafar: UMNO Membership Still Open**  
42130077b Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA  
in Malay 1 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 31 Mar—Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said UMNO remains open to Malays although the period for automatic acceptance of members ends today.

He said applications for UMNO membership will be handled through the normal process, to be screened before acceptance by the Supreme Council.

"The deadline for joining UMNO automatically will not be extended, and the normal process will be in effect beginning tomorrow," he told reporters today at the Royal Malaysian Air Force (TUDM) Airfield at Sungai Besi upon his return from a 2-day visit to Brunei Darussalam.

He stated that the purpose of the new process is to enable rejection of applications from people who could presumably hurt the party.

He said the normal process will also enable the party to reject applications from Malays who will one moment support UMNO and the next moment oppose the party in elections, particularly in future by-elections.

In that connection, he has directed UMNO liaison people in all the states to print membership forms if supplies are inadequate.

He emphasized that newly printed forms will be valid only if they are identical to the forms now in use.

He said forms for automatic membership may still be used but they will be processed normally.

He said, "The problem of insufficient membership forms actually should not arise, since two million copies have been distributed and UMNO has accepted only one million or so members."

In reply to a reporter's question, he said, "The possibility that forms for automatic membership have been hidden by party branches is beyond UMNO's knowledge."

Ghaffar said earlier that his 2-day visit to Brunei was merely routine and that no important talks had taken place.

Meanwhile, BERNAMA reported that on Ghaffar's 2-day visit to Brunei Darussalam he had today played golf with Datuk Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa Datuk Haji Ibrahim, special assistant to the Sultan of Brunei, at the Ministers' Beach Golf Club at Bandar Seri Begawan.

Ghaffar then attended Friday prayers with the Islamic community at the Sultan Sir Omar Ali Saifuddin State Mosque.

Ghaffar and his six-member delegation, which included Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan, arrived at the Brunei Darussalam capital last night.

Sultan Sir Haji Hasanali Bolkiah granted an audience to Ghaffar and Datuk Dr Abdullah Fadzil at the Nurul Iman Palace shortly after their arrival.

Datuk Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, who is also Brunei minister of home affairs, was also present during the audience.

Last night, the deputy prime minister was entertained at dinner by Datuk Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa at the Brunei Government Police Officers' Mess in their building near Bandar Seri Begawan.

**Commentary on PAS Leadership**  
42130076c Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA  
in Malay 1 Apr 89 p 2

[News Analysis by Rozaid Abdul Rahman: "Will PAS Become More Revolutionary?"]

[Text] The change which took place on 30 March in the top leadership of the Pan Malaysian Islamic Party or PAS at its national congress at the party training center in Taman Melewar, Kuala Lumpur, is very interesting to see and analyze.

At the very least the change going on may leave two impressions. Either it will change the program of the party under new leaders or it will continue with the basic foundations left by Yusof Rawa.

Hadi Awang, who was originally a candidate opposing Fadzil Nor for the office of chairman, withdrew from the contest to make it easier for Fadzil Nor, while drawing attention to the number two office in the party.

However, close friends of Yusof Rawa, whom we met at the recent meeting at Taman Melewar, clearly expressed concern that the PAS program will be more aggressive under the new leadership, although it will not be completely revolutionary in outlook.

Hadi, Hassan Shukri, and Subky Latiff are said to be in full control of the party, although Yusof Rawa occupies the number one position.

It is said that their leadership stance is against compromising with UMNO, for example, and this is why Nakhaie resigned.

However, at times it has appeared that they are not so set on this course because they often do things which conflict with what has been said by Fadzil Nor on current issues.

In commenting on this weakness Yusof once complained that official party statements could only be made public by Subky and Hassan as general secretaries, in addition to himself.

However, this advice is still not being followed, and the firmness with which Hadi Awang issues "legal rulings" has been a matter of concern to half of the PAS leadership, which is more liberal and wants to make use of customary law.



In that connection observers have often said that the top leadership of PAS has failed to dissuade its members from acting aggressively or making harsh, clear statements.

When statements criticizing people who do not understand Islam very well are made at every party conference, the leaders remain silent and are unable to control the situation.

Although Yusof Rawa, in the view of PAS members, is not as active as Hadi Awang in commenting on the Koran and the traditions about Mohammad [hadis], he is still highly regarded by his friends and opponents because of his charisma in dealing with political life and his broad experience since the time of Datuk Asri.

### Controls Things

He is not only acquainted with secular knowledge and is fluent in English and Arabic but also once served as a diplomat. In addition, his attitude is considered to be more liberal.

On the other hand his affection for the party can no longer be questioned.

However, one of his close aides has said that what is happening to Yusof Rawa at this congress is an example of consideration for him. He is ill and will be forced to resign.

If this does not happen, there is a considerable possibility that Yusof will be gently "pushed aside," as happened to Datuk Asri.

Indeed, the majority of PAS members may decide to regard Yusof as "an obstacle" to Hadi's being promoted more quickly.

Since the 34th party congress it has been hoped that Yusof will resign voluntarily. However, this has not fitted in with the wishes of the Advisory Assembly of the party.

For that reason, when Yusof became ill, it began to be felt that Nakhaie Haji Ahman, the deputy chairman, who is considered more liberal and on the same plane as Yusof, is the man to look to now.

It is possible that what Hadi and his other friends do not have, such as Yusof and Nakhaie have, is the practice of moving gradually in making use of customary law and their failure to pay attention to the emotions of PAS members.

Observers believe that Hadi is a person who closely follows Koranic law and the traditions about Mohammad.

He will reject any action which is not clearly referred to in the Koran and the traditions about Mohammad.

It is clear that his attitude of no compromise may prevent the party from moving closer to the program advocated by UMNO.

We saw previously that Yusof and Nakhaie are only a short distance from PAS leaders who want to meet with Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Anwar Ibrahim to discuss the question of the unity of the Malay community.

At present this question is emerging once again in the Community Unity Corps [Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah].

However, the difference is that this cooperation is going on with the leaders of the Spirit of 1946 group, who reportedly are not much in favor with Yusof and Nakhaie. The latter have found a way to live in peace with UMNO under the leadership of Doctor Mahathir.

In view of developments at the congress this time it is very clear that the atmosphere affecting the presentation of candidates has shown the trend of thinking of PAS members.

Indeed, they are waiting for the happy moment of seeing Fadzil and Hadi standing shoulder to shoulder, although under many other circumstances the two of them make conflicting statements on current issues.

What else is there to say about the attitude of PAS in the effort to achieve the unity of the Malay community?

However, for members of PAS, that is another question.

The important thing is that Hadi will almost certainly become "deputy prime minister" in a PAS cabinet.

While there is an opportunity to take over the top party leadership, there is only one step left to take.

It is not certain what form of leadership will be displayed by Fadzil, with his "soft" approach and with Hadi as his deputy.

Subky, in a statement made at a press conference, did not deny that the PAS leadership will become more aggressive. He declared: "We need younger people who have a revolutionary outlook."

### Accepted

Meanwhile, among the leaders of PAS Youth, Bakar Chik, who is a follower of Halim Arshad, has been accepted as the new leader of the organization after Halim resigns from office.

The same is true of Khalid Samad, the younger brother of Shahrir Samad, who will be a member of the Executive Council of the central office of the PAS youth group.



Indeed, according to Subky, the turnover of leadership in the PAS youth group is nothing new.

Zulkifli Mohamad became deputy chairman of PAS in 1964 when he was 34.

He said that Doctor Burhanuddin also became chairman in his 50's, while Asri became chairman in his 40's.

Therefore, Subky states, the present leadership is only a continuation of the leadership provided by past leaders.

Regarding the future of PAS under Fadzil and Hadi, Subky said that if there is a drastic or sudden change, this will not be due to the fact that Yusof Rawa is no longer in office.

Subky said: "This is because the present leadership alongside Yusof Rawa is good. So the trend continues. If there is any change, this will be due to the fact that PAS as a whole needs a change. We hope that this new leadership will be more active and aggressive. This has nothing to do with the resignation of Yusof Rawa."

**Kraisak Comments on Prime Minister Advisors' Role, Access**

42070078a Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA in Thai  
5 Mar 89 pp 22-24

[Interview with Mr Kraisak Chunhawan, an advisor to the prime minister, date and place not specified]

[Text] [MATICHON SUT SAPDA] Would you give us some background information on the advisors to the prime minister?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] The prime minister asked me to establish an advisory team, which surprised me. He also told me not to put any of my "pals" on the team. I said that I would select people of great prestige who would work hard. During dinner with him, I would make recommendations.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] What criteria did you use for selecting the advisors?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] They could not have any personal interests. They had to be people who understood politics. They had to be exceptionally talented people who could keep abreast of the situation. Also, I had to know them.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] How much compensation are they paid?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] For the most part, they live on their old salaries, because most of them are government officials who are on leave from their regular duties.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] How many advisors are there?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] Mr Phansak Winyarat is the person who formed the team and serves as the leader of the advisory team. Altogether, there are about 10 people. There are also outside scholars who provide advice. I pay for some of the expenses. The prime minister also pays part of the expenses. I have purchased two computers. Some of the people have their own computers.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] How is the work structured?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] Actually, that depends on what the prime minister wants. It actually depends on what the government wants. People had to elect him. The ministries are the ones that establish the base. The prime minister is the one who makes the decisions based on this foundation. We have to do things accordingly once permission has been given or there is agreement in principle. The prime minister can't do anything unless a base has been established.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] What does each person do?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] Each person provides support. If there is an important matter pending, we get together to discuss it to see how many agree. The key to a "yes" or "no" is Mr Phansak Winyarat.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] How is the work divided?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] If someone is an expert on some matter, he will take charge of that. Dr Sutham and Dr Chintaphat, for example, are lawyers who graduated from Harvard. They are both very interested in technology and so they work with Mr Phansak on matters concerning technology. The others work on other projects.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] How much are things screened before they are submitted to the cabinet?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] If something needs to be screened, we ask them to do so beforehand. Or the matter is submitted to the prime minister, because we can't give an opinion because of a lack of data. We ask him to postpone the matter. It's up to the prime minister. Some things are postponed and others aren't. But so far, we haven't had any really serious matters. That is, we haven't made serious mistakes. If a mistake is made, we can always fix it. If the wrong decision is made, we can change it.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] What about the Ministry of Commerce and stocks?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] That depends on several things. In some cases, I don't know what is going on and so I have to call friends and ask them to tell me what is going on. Or I ask the officials concerned or technocrats to explain things to me.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] As for stocks, this is said to involve huge profits.

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] I don't think that the Ministry of Commerce is ignorant about this.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] What about the effect on the government?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] This is an issue every year. Every Monday, the advisory team attends the cabinet meeting. We can attend other days, too, if this issue is on the agenda.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] How many times a week do you chat with the prime minister?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] It varies. Sometimes there is much to discuss. Sometimes we are up to 0100 or 0200 hours. Because there are banquets for military and police officers and so on. Sometimes we don't have a chance to

see each other. Sometimes there are urgent matters and he hasn't returned by 1800 hours. Sometimes we don't start until 2000 hours, and it is 0100 or 0200 hours before we finish.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] At the meetings, are you free to raise any issue you want?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] Yes, except for political issues.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] What about the conflict with Mr Sitthi over the Hun Sen affair?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] There was no conflict. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not know that Hun Sen was coming. Mr Sitthi couldn't say anything, because he really didn't know anything about this.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] Did SAP [Social Action Party] MPs call and complain about things?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] Those MPs did not know anything about this either.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] Do you brief the prime minister before he goes out in public? Sometimes he says he is in a rush or something to that effect. Or does he speak on his own?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] We have never briefed him. He speaks on his own. There is no need to brief him. He frequently makes jokes at cabinet meetings.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] He seems to use single words to form a general concept.

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] That's right. He uses concepts. But at the same time, he constantly builds a foundation.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] That means that he is well-versed on matters.

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] Yes, he is.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] Before he became prime minister, as your father, did he ever push you as far as politics was concerned?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] Politically, he was not in a position to decide anything. He did not have the power that he has today. Whenever friends of mine came to visit me, regardless of whether it was Thirayut Bunmi, Seksan Prasertkun, or someone else, he loved to come and join us. We would discuss this and that. University professors got to know him quite well and so they came to the house quite often. He would come in wearing slippers. If we didn't invite him to join us, he would put on his slippers and walk around the house until we asked him to join us.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] Being deputy prime minister was probably rather boring, wasn't it?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] Yes, because there wasn't anything to do.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] But now he is taking action on a variety of things.

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] That's right. He has said that he has nothing to lose. And so he is working hard. There are many things that he wants to accomplish. He is particularly concerned about economic matters. He wants to expand the economy and industry. He is also very concerned about establishing peace in this region and establishing friendly relations with Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. He becomes excited whenever he discusses these matters. His knowledge of the details is astonishing. He knows all about the NGP 2 issue and other issues. On the weekends he sometimes drives to Mapta-phut and asks "why hasn't this pipe been installed yet?" He concerns himself with such details. He asks if the pipes can be painted different colors so that he will know, because there are many pipes.

When he spoke at the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy [CRMA], he talked about having officers serve as "oil officers" so that they wouldn't stage a coup. He was surprised when he saw the lab, because it's the most modern lab in Thailand.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] CRMA's lab?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] CRMA has a very modern petrochemical lab. Fifteen years ago, he tried to obtain money for CRMA to start teaching courses on petrochemicals, because we had discovered gas and oil deposits. But nothing was done. But there still aren't any courses. When we start the NPC 2 and NPC 1 in the next 3 years, we will lack 20,000 "NP-Mirror." He talks about this everywhere. He talks about this at all the educational institutions. He has talked about having CRMA assign 300 people a year. He has talked about this with Big Chiu. Big Chiu doesn't know what to say.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] What is he like?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] He calls us in to talk with us. He discusses the issues. He has a list. Wherever he goes, he has list. At the top of the list, he writes, "Chatchai, Do It Now." He asks us what points we want to raise. He criticizes people gently.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] What about the copyright issue, which he has characterized as bending with the wind?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] We provided him with sufficient information to enable him to make a decision. This concerns our relations with the United States. Particularly the Copyright Law. They said that they would cut

our GSP benefits, but that probably won't amount to very much. They will have to do that on a case by case basis, and we won't be the only one affected. He talked with exporters. He knows these people. In the past, this wasn't done. In the past, we did whatever the United States said.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] This shows that our copyright law will not pose difficulties.

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] No, we will have to continue struggling. They will make more demands about the copyright law. They want us to include software in the copyright law. We will have to fight several more rounds.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] What has been the view and role of the main advisory team?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] This is mainly an honorary position. Few are scholars. Most have their own businesses and don't have to provide much help. But if it is a major issue, such as relations with the United States, particularly the issue of the copyright law or GSP benefits, we give him our opinion.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] What about Mr Worana Chanchua?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] Mr Worana Chanchua serves as a link between this administration and that of Gen Prem. He knows many people. He knows all the senior government officials. He serves as a link. Take, for example, the matter of G.S. Steel, which filed protests for several years. Gen Prem didn't do anything. The prime minister wanted him to solve the problem. But how could he do that? He asked to talk with Chamni, the owner of the plant. He said that the prime minister wanted to discuss this. But he refused to discuss it. He had to ask Mr Worana to talk to him. That's all. That ended the matter.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] What about Big Chiu? Sometimes it seems as if they get along, but at other times, it seems as if they are competing against each other.

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] I think that Big Chiu is a very open person. He is very accessible to us. Most people don't know this. When we discuss things with him, he will argue with us in a friendly manner, or like a big brother. He is not an arrogant person. He always tries to express his viewpoint.

I don't view this as competing against each other. It's difficult being the RTA CINC and trying to formulate a military policy that is in accord with the country's security situation and the country's socio-economic situation.

Some people think that he will be the next prime minister. Because it is common in Thai politics for the RTA CINC to become prime minister. He is concerned about this. I met him at a party last year. This irritated the prime minister. He said that he didn't want to be prime minister and asked Big Chiu if he wanted to be prime minister. Big Chiu was shocked and said that "you misunderstand. I am surprised by what you have said. It bothers me." That is what he said.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] Where do you usually meet with the prime minister?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] Sometimes we meet at the house on Rachakru Lane. At other times we meet at the house on Phitsanulok Road. It depends on what is most suitable.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] Does the advisory team write his speeches for him?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] Yes.

[MATICHON SUT SAPDA] Does he revise the speeches?

[Mr Kraisak Chunhawan] Very often. Sometimes he cuts out entire pages.

The policy advisory team of the prime minister:

1. Mr Phansak Winyarat, head of the policy advisory team. 2. Mr Buansak Uwanon 3. Mr Surakiet Sathianthai 4. Mr Chuanchai Atchanan 5. MR [royal title] Sukhumphan Boriphat 6. Mr Narongchai Akraeni

Besides these, there are also four full-time researchers who assist the advisory team. These are Mr Kraisak Chunhawan, Mr Sutham Yunaitam, Mr Chitraphat Khruawan, and Mr Loesan Thanasukan. There are also two staff members and three clerks.

The advisory team to the prime minister on science and technology policy:

1. Mr Kamchat Mongkhonkun  
2. Mr Rit Sutabut  
3. Mr Yongyut Yutthawong  
4. Mr Koson Phetsuwan  
5. Mr Phairat Thatphong  
6. Mr Loesan Thanasukan

The advisory team to the prime minister on labor policy:

1. Mr Nikhom Chanthawithun  
2. Mrs Mali Phruksaphongswali  
3. Mr Lae Dilokwithayarat

Mr Kraisak Chunhawan serves as the coordinator.



The advisory team to the prime minister on housing development policy:

1. Mr Sumet Chumsai Na Ayuthaya
2. Miss Praphaphai Niyom
3. Mrs Prathip Ungsongtham Hatayy

#### **MP Views Chawalit's Economic Development Proposal**

42070084b Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai  
13 Mar 89 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] Mr Dusit Sophitcha, a Community Action Party MP from Ubon Ratchathani Province, discussed the matter of Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the RTA CINC and acting supreme commander, authorizing in principle the formation of four development divisions, one in each of the regions. He said that if he is sincere about this, he should form only one division. Also, this unit should be composed of men from each of the three branches of service just like the National Security Command Headquarters. The only thing that has been done is to change the name and yet this has created quite a stir. If these divisions actually are formed, they should work with the other government units involved in development work, such as the Irrigation Department, the Department of Public Works, the Community Development Department, and so on. The national budget for development work is limited. The government is already carrying on such work. But if the military requests funds for this, the government will probably feel obligated to provide funds. This will have an adverse effect on the morale of other government units, which will not get any of the credit. The military, for example, has received all the credit for the Green Northeast Project.

Mr Dusit said that he is opposed to forming four development divisions because Gen Chawalit has failed to carry out his promise, made just after he became RTA CINC, to streamline the army and make it more efficient. Instead, he has asked that additional slots be established for general officers and tried to expand the army, such as by forming two new corps. If he really wants to form development divisions, he should use those soldiers who presently have nothing to do. For example, engineer battalions can be used in development work, because the country is now at peace.

"If the military wants to participate in development work, it should request tasks from the government or share the work. It shouldn't implement things on its own. Doing things that way will cause splits within the country. I don't think that the military will do that, because there is no reason to do so. Another thing is that soldiers are not technicians. In the past, they have tried to please the people. I think that carrying on public relations activities is fine, but they are not that efficient," said Mr Dusit.

Mr Dusit said that the formation of these development divisions will definitely have a political effect. During the period of resistance against the communists, such units

were not called development divisions. Instead we had the National Security Command Headquarters. If these divisions are established, they will have to have commanders. That will mean an expansion of the military, which is contrary to the policy of Gen Chawalit and which would pose a heavy burden on the government because it would have to pay the salaries of the soldiers. Thus, the existing number of military slots should not be increased. Soldiers already on active duty should be used.

"Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, the prime minister, supports the formation of the development divisions. I don't agree with him. Gen Chatchai is an easygoing person. But one of his faults is that he tries to humor the military and power groups too much. He doesn't pay attention to who is building the country or to what the country's financial position is. If four development divisions are established, that means that many battalions will be formed. The Chatchai government has done several strange things. Gen Praman Adriksan, the minister of interior, wants to form more police precincts in order to expand the Police Department and turn it into a bureau. The opposition is monitoring this. There are fears that this will damage the country's system and create problems for those who want to form a government in the future," said Mr Dusit.

Mr Dusit said that he would like to tell Gen Chawalit not to take action on his own. He should look to other units, too, or discuss such matters with the Development Council. If Gen Chawalit remains in his position, this could be done. But if he leaves, no one knows what will happen. The funds will have to come from other development units. After Gen Chawalit has retired, the development divisions might be disbanded. Unilateral action by the military could lead to divisions. No one will know who the prime minister is. Whenever the villagers have problems, they will go to the military for help. In effect, the military would be competing against the government for the support of the people. That will lead to confusion in the future. People will go to consult with the leader of the military. He said that if they really want to develop the country, there is no reason to form development divisions. If they want to form such a unit, they should form only one division.

#### **Sources Comment on Chatchai Office Staff Organization**

Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA in Thai  
5 Mar 89 pp 24, 25

[Text] It seems as if the prime minister's advisory team is involved in all the important policy matters of the Chatchai administration. This includes the Indochina and Cambodian problems and Thai-U.S. relations and more minor matters such as the establishment of a computerized reservation system for Thai Airways International, or ABACUS, and bids on long-distance telephone equipment by the Telephone Organization of Thailand.

Outsiders view this policy advisory team, or "Ban Phitsanulok" as it is called, as the "brains" in providing data or options to help the prime minister make decisions on important policy matters. They tend to view the advisory team this way because the key person behind the formation of this team was Mr Kraisak Chunhawan, the only son of the prime minister. He gathered together fellow scholars from various universities on the condition that they give up personal interests. Initially, the team was composed of only about 10 scholars. But they had expertise in almost every field.

Mr Phansak Winyarat is an expert on computers and international relations, particularly the United States. MR [royal title] Sukhumphan Boriphat is an expert on international relations. Mr Chuanchai Atchanan and Mr Narongchai Akraseni are experts on economic matters. Mr Surakiet Sathianthai is an expert on international law. Mr Buansak Uwanon and Mr Chitraphat Khruawan are legal experts. Mr Kraisak Chunhawan is an expert on labor and Indochina. Mr Loesan Thanasukon is an expert on computers and science.

Most members of this policy advisory team are regular government officials who are on leave from their regular positions so that they can provide full-time help. Their duties require them to be present at Ban Sai Thong almost every day. They discuss things both officially and unofficially throughout the day.

They study matters as requested by Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, the prime minister. Such matters include problems that have arisen and that affect the government and people. This includes important matters that will be discussed at cabinet meetings.

"Members of this policy advisory team are given the agenda of cabinet meetings just like ministers, the spokesman attached to the Office of the Prime Minister, and others concerned so that they can study matters and analyze the data submitted by the ministries. They study the feasibility and suitability of the proposals. They then present their findings to the prime minister. Such matters include ABACUS and the expressway over Khlong Prapa. Some of the advisors attend the meetings of the economic cabinet," said a news source in the Government House to MATICHON SUT SAPDA.

However, there are so many problems that require the attention of the government that three additional advisory teams have been formed. These are the prime minister's advisory team on science and technology policy, the advisory team on labor policy, and the advisory team on developing housing.

Besides this, consideration is also being given to establishing a four-man advisor team on Moslem affairs in order to help resolve the cultural and religious differences, which have led to political problems, particularly

in the four southern border provinces. People are now being sounded out about this. An advisory team on protecting forest resources and the environment may be established, too.

These additional advisory teams do not work full time like the first team. They meet every Friday at Ban Phitsanulok in order to discuss matters and gather data to be submitted to Gen Chatchai.

However, data collection by the Ban Phitsanulok team is not limited just to the people appointed to the teams. Because of their good relations with professors at the universities and institutes, other scholars also provide data and help analyze matters, such as the GSP matter. This also includes people in the private sector who have trade and economic data.

As for the work environment at Ban Phitsanulok, there is a large hall that serves as the common work room for the team members. There are three or four personal computers in this room. The computers hold data on economic, trade, and export matters. There is also an on-line system with the Department of Business Economics.

"Some of these computers belong to particular people. The prime minister bought the programs himself. He also pays the other monthly expenses, which amount to quite a lot," said the news source from Ban Phitsanulok to MATICHON SUT SAPDA.

A news source in the Government House said that even though outsiders think that the advisory team has great influence with respect to the decisions made by the prime minister, the truth is that the data submitted by Ban Phitsanulok are just some of the data presented to him. Gen Chatchai receives data from many sources. For example, he discusses matters with Mr Pharana Itsarasanao, the President of the Industrial Council, and Mr Anan Panyachun, the head of the Saha Union Group and the former under secretary of foreign affairs. He also gets information from the Thai-China Friendship Association, to which many businessmen belong.

The reason why the advisory team seems to play such a major role is that the team is quite open. Team members have a close relationship with the mass media and often respond instead of the prime minister when questioned about important matters, such as ABACUS, the patent and copyright issue, relations with Indochina, and the Cambodia problem.

"Because the advisory team is so open, there has been a clash of ideas with other units, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This has further increased the role of this team," said the news source.

However, because the advisory team wants the country to advance along the right path in accord with the actual situation, their hard work has had an impact on the government's policies.

Sometimes the prime minister sends food to them. But usually it is Mr Sukhumphan Boriphat who provides the food. They work only on the lower floor of Ban Phitsanulok.

Something else that is widely believed is that even though Mr Kraissak and his father, Gen Chatchai, may view things differently, Mr Kraissak will never betray his father. Because of this, Gen Chatchai has great trust in the advisory team, just as he does in Mr Kon Thappharangsi, the minister attached to the Office of the Prime Minister, a key man in this administration.

**Southern Communists Seek Chatchai Help**  
42070084a Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai  
15 Mar 89 pp 1, 19

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A news source from the Government House told BAN MUANG that activists among the Participants in the Development of Thailand in the south recently sent representatives to meet with Mr Piya Angkinan, a Thai Nation Party MP from Phetburi Province and an advisor to the prime minister, in order to arrange a meeting with Gen Chatchai Chunchawan, the prime minister. They wanted to express their thanks and show their support for the government, which is exerting pressure to implement the Southern Seaboard Project, which will help develop the south and create jobs for people.

At the same time, the Participants in the Development of Thailand also wanted to meet the prime minister in order to complain about the fact that many of those who surrendered still don't have jobs or a place to live. The Participants in the Development of Thailand want to play a role in the Southern Seaboard Project.

The news source said that because they were unable to find jobs, some of these people have fled into the jungle and are again waging a struggle against the government. Others are waiting and hoping that the government will take action. Everyone wants to live like an ordinary citizen and work peacefully. An important point is that many of the leading Participants in the Development of Thailand have been arrested by government officials. Some have been squeezed for money. Officials use old charges to persecute them. This is causing problems for these people. At the same time, those who are still in the jungle and who want to surrender are hesitating because they are unsure about what the government's policy really is.

They want to meet with Gen Chatchai in order to inform him about what is happening. They want to help bring peace to the 4 southern provinces. Leading Participants in the Development of Thailand from throughout the south want to meet the prime minister in order to learn about the prime minister's policy.

"The representatives asked Mr Piya to coordinate things. Mr Piya said that he would discuss this matter with the prime minister in order to find a way to provide help," said the news source. [passage omitted]

**Deputy CINC Wanchai Discusses Green Northeast Project**

42070083a Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai  
15 Mar 89 p 3

[Interview with Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakun, the deputy RTA CINC, by Wanchai Muangsi: "The Green Northeast Project"; date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] The person responsible for the Green Northeast Project, with whom many readers may not be familiar, is Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakun, the deputy RTA CINC, an unassuming cavalryman who has the complete trust of Big Chiu. Gen Wanchai talked with BAN MUANG about several things.

[Wanchai Muangsi] What are the duties of the Royal Center To Help the People with respect to the Green Northeast Project? [passage omitted]

[Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakun] After the plan has been formulated, we will obtain funds to implement the plan. We will coordinate things with the National Economic and Social Development Board and with the National Rural Development Board, which are the main organizations in developing the rural areas. After that, we will coordinate things with the Bureau of the Budget before submitting the plan to the cabinet and House of Representatives for approval of the budget. That is because this project will be carried out with funds from the national budget.

I would like to stress that the duty of the Royal Center To Help the People [RCHP] is to coordinate things with the ministries, bureaus, and departments. These state units already have their own plans. But we will coordinate things for the 17 provinces to ensure that these plans are in accord with the targets set for developing the northeast. We will hold meetings to set priorities for such things as providing water, preserving the forests, carrying on afforestation, and improving soil quality. These things account for about 80 percent of the work that must be done based on the plan. The rest concerns improving the quality of life and providing incomes to the people through such things as supplemental industries, agricultural industries, or small-scale industries, and native handicrafts.

As for coordinating things with the provinces, we will establish provincial RCHP centers so that they can submit ideas on which areas in the province should be given priority in carrying on development projects. After that, we will establish committees to evaluate the results of the work done in each area. They will make a determination regarding how much has been accomplished, how satisfied the people are, and what the



problems are. And if things have not been completed, they will determine the reasons. We have to make evaluations, because this project is being carried on using national budget funds. If mistakes are made, someone could be held responsible.

Besides coordinating things with the units concerned, we will also coordinate things with the private sector and with the other countries that are providing support for this project. We will form committees to carry on things. We will also support the university project, which is being carried on in 23 places. So far, two have been opened, that is, in Maha Sarakham and Khon Kaen. We will help by conducting seminars and demonstrations and doing research. Another new project is the Public Temple Housing Project, which is being supported by the Buddhist clergy. Another of our functions is to manage the money that has been donated. But that is the responsibility of the RTA CINC in his capacity as the deputy head of the project. To date, about 100 million baht has been donated.

[Wanchai Muangsi] How much progress has been made in implementing the project?

[Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakum] Let me start with the year 1987, which is the year when we had to tackle the immediate problems. We brought in water, dug wells, and dredged the canals. But the project really got underway in 1988 and will conclude in 1992. It was the phase 1 project that was submitted to the government. At that time, Gen Prem Tinsulanon was the prime minister. He called a meeting and said that 5 years was not enough. There was much that had to be done and so the project would have to be continued. He asked us to continue working. That year, we were allotted 20 million baht from the budget in addition to 20 million from the army and 75 million in donations. We implemented several projects, but they were all short-term projects. There are three types of projects, short-term, medium-term, and long-term. We did not implement any of the long-term projects, because those require much money. We implemented only short- and medium-term projects.

In 1988 we dug wells, seeded clouds, preserved the forests, carried on afforestation work, and did work to improve the quality of life. For the most part, we used military equipment, which helped save money. We carried out several thousand projects, but the northeast is a very large area. Surveys have shown that they need about 20,000 wells. But we can dig only about 2,000 a year. It will take time to dig all the wells needed. Even if we had the 50 billion baht needed for this, we could still not do this all at once. This will take time.

In 1989, there should be better coordination between the various organizations involved, because they understand things better. There is a budget of 4,891 million baht, of which only 1,278 million is controlled by the Royal Center

To Help the People. The rest belongs to the ministries, bureaus, and departments. This money should help us complete many of the projects formulated.

Some people feel that there is little chance of "greening" the northeast. Many parts of the northeast are still very dry. But I would like to remind people that without this project, drought would be permanent. And the northeast isn't the only region. The same is true in the central region. During the dry season, it is very dry. We have to see if things are any better now than in previous dry seasons. We have formulated plans to meet emergencies while developing the northeast. We have readied funds and equipment. If a province encounters severe drought, we will send equipment there immediately. These emergency plans will be supplemented in February, March, and April, the dry months.

We will evaluate the Green Northeast Project by seeing if the areas where we have worked suffer from drought again. So far, the situation seems to have improved greatly. The places where we have worked seem to have sufficient water. In short, in the areas where we have worked, excellent results have been achieved. But that is only in the areas where we have worked. We have gone and talked to the villagers in other areas and told them that other areas are suffering greater hardships. We have explained to them that we can't do everything all at once and asked for their understanding. Once the project has been completed, every area will have water. If we can't complete this in 5 years and the government provides additional funds, we will carry out the project in all areas. At the very least, during the dry season, the people of the northeast must have water in the large village ponds. I am sure that this project will succeed at one level. But there will still be droughts. [passage omitted]

[Wanchai Muangsi] Because the combat situation has changed, the army is now turning to developing both the army and the country in accord with the situation. What form will this development take?

[Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakum] As for this development role, we have concentrated on modernizing the army. The RTA CINC has constantly stressed that we must make the army combat ready and modernize the army. During the past 3 years, we have focused on these twin objectives. The RTA CINC has now formulated an additional policy. When the government implements a development policy to combat poverty, he plans to establish development divisions. Thus, we will carry on things in three forms. That is, we will work to make the army combat ready. Even though we are now drawing closer to our former enemies, it is essential to keep the army in a state of combat readiness. Second, we must continue to modernize the army in terms of weapons and equipment. During the next 3 years, we plan to procure weapons and equipment in line with the funds allotted us. Third, we will form development divisions. The Directorate of Operations, which is responsible for forming these units, has looked for models in other countries that



have established such units. But these must be suited to Thailand. We are in the process of determining what the mission of the development divisions will be. At previous meetings, the RTA CINC has expressed his satisfaction with the designs submitted. The next step is to work out the details and request authorization from the Ministry of Defense. I think that it will take time to implement this, but things should get underway very soon, because the RTA CINC has already approved this. In the past, we began establishing additional engineer units in order to have them play a leading role in building various things. Now we plan to turn these into development units.

[Wanchai Muangsi] Will there be any budget problems?

[Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakum] We must try and stay within our budget. We have allotted the funds. Some units have been combined. We already have engineer battalions and equipment. The United States has provided us with equipment. If China provides us with equipment, we will form units in accord with the policy. We shouldn't have to request any additional funds. [passage omitted]

**Director General Oranuj on Trade Strategy**  
42000119b Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English  
24 Mar 89 pp 7, 8

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] There's never a dull moment in the office belonging to Mrs Oranuj Osathananda, the director-general of the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce. [Passage omitted]

Talking trade with a real trade pro who's known as the *Chao Mae* (Godmother), is a tough business. Especially when it comes to the less pleasant aspects of the subject itself.

In this world of increasing protectionism, many countries to which Thailand wants to export use quotas to control these exports. Your department is a key player in the issuing of quotas in Thailand to Thai exporters. Allegations abound of a great deal of money changing hands. What is the reality of the situation?

"I'd like first to clarify that at present there're only textile goods, coffee and tapioca which are operated on quotas. These quotas are set by the 18 countries to whom Thailand exports the merchandise," explained Mrs Oranuj in her actual, pleasant tone of voice, quoting King Ramkhamhaeng's famous saying, "Here, 'whoever wishes to trade, trades.'"

#### Limited Quotas

"Because of this there're a great number of exporters, and business is going very well. Since our quotas are limited, whoever gets the quotas would say the department is fair, and naturally those who don't would say otherwise. Therefore, how do you draw the line between what's just and what is not?"

What then does an exporter have to do to be qualified for such quotas?

"The quotas are first given to existing exporters because they are the ones who built the market and set the export record. But if there're additional quotas we would keep them for new exporters because the old exporters are not the ones who set the record for this addition.

"There're a lot of problems in the textile area because of the different sizes of businesses—a person who has 11 sewing machines is already considered a potential garment exporter. Another problem is advance orders because in textile there's also fashion trends involved. But we, as a rule, give priority to exports that are quick (hot items) and have higher value.

The fashionable merchandise should in theory have no problems as far as quota distribution is concerned. The problem could be that the officials concerned might not know the real value of the merchandise because exporters have added extra value to their items. This is most found in cases where exporters have chain businesses abroad. As for corruption, if it exists, there's the Counter-Corruption Commission that can investigate the case."

Approvals of applications, said the director-general, do not have to come from her. The Commerce Minister is the one who sets the rules and regulations which are to be processed by concerned officials. Interestingly, the division chief is qualified to give the green light to a proposal.

According to a recent Associated Press article, the U.S. is Thailand's "most important export market, with the Thais enjoying a \$1.4 billion trade surplus last year on exports worth \$3.5 billion." And since January this year, says AP, the U.S. Government began to deny duty-free benefits on about \$165 million worth of Thai imports."

Whilst serious retaliatory measures by Washington are still being held at bay, the Commerce Ministry's Department of Foreign Trade also has a few other major problems at hand. The frowning alternated sometimes by a delicate laughter and a smile on the face of the 49-year-old director-general as she tried to explain point by point the general scenario of her department.

The first item on the list is rice. Even if rice exports are decreasing in importance compared to manufactured exports, rice still concerns the lives of the majority of Thais. "Anytime the rice price falls, I spend most of my time with the issue," related the personable director-general. "This year is better, so I have more time left to do other things," she added with a faint smile.

Protectionism is another major headache. The department is following the trend closely, especially on its impacts on Thailand's steel exports. The Voluntary Restraint Agreement (VRA) with the U.S., which expires

this September, is being watched closely, and, "hopefully it will be extended." Likewise, the Omnibus Trade Act under which the U.S. can exercise such measures as the "melt and pour" condition to determine the origin of its steel imports.

"We had earlier talked with the U.S. regarding steel pipes and tubes exports from Thailand but couldn't yet come to agreeable terms. Other manufactured products were not included under the VRA as they're still in small quantities whilst pipes and tubes take up 90 per cent of the exports," Mrs Oranuj explained, with seemingly less and less of a smile.

Another major problem is tapioca, especially when the time comes to allocate quotas. Considering that the EC gives Thailand a quota of 5.2 million tons per year on tapioca exports and Thailand produces up to eight million tons of tapioca pellets a year, the stock arrangement for determining quotas is obviously not an easy matter to solve.

The department is also concerned with the textile agreement with the U.S. which expired last December but which at the moment is being considered on an item by item basis, "as if the U.S. wants to sort of upset us so we cannot trade happily." In the next two weeks, the U.S. "textile negotiation team" is due to arrive for a more substantive talk on the matter concerning nine items.

#### Secret Weapon

All these problems, so vital to the Kingdom's survival. All the negotiations. How such a seemingly dainty woman handles them all can't but fascinate most people who watch her from a distance. Mrs Oranuj says she travels abroad about 14 times a year on duty which sometimes involves giving talks on Thai trade. As to her secret weapon in dealing with other people, she attributes it to being "myself."

"I consider all problems to be like my own. My requests must always be based on reasons and I must believe in them too. Selling rice, I assume the role of the *mae ka* (a merchant) and stick to my guns when it comes to bargaining," she revealed, dismissing the question on whether being a woman is more advantageous than being a man. She said there is no difference in being a senior bureaucrat and a woman—"I try not to be over-ambitious and I'm very serious with my work."

Mrs Oranuj Osathananda has been in her present position for two years. Prior to this, she was deputy to the director-general in the same department for four years. She has been with the Ministry of Commerce for 10 years. Her first career began in 1964—when she was 23—as head of the research and planning division, Office of Export Promotion Committee, which came under the Office Prime Minister (Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat). Workwise, her life seems to have been truly

entwined with the Commerce Ministry, with her position before the current one being senior commercial adviser attached to the Ministry's Office of the Permanent Secretary.

Perhaps like her career, she has always been privileged to strive only for the best. Her parents were both lawyers; her mother Khunying Raem Boonyaprasop was Thailand's first woman lawyer. She attended a prestigious girls school—Mater Dei College—and then Triam Udom Suksa, before attaining her B.A. in Economics from an exclusive women's college, Catham College, in Pittsburg, in the U.S. She married Mr Vira, former secretary to NESDB's secretary-general and has three children—a son who's now a lawyer and two college-age daughters.

Whether or not being a long-time bureaucrat might affect her views in looking at problems, the director-general—who most people regard as being "frank"—said she "cannot deny that" and she even "envies those who can be so free and vocal." For this reason, questions pertaining to other subjects apart from her direct work were treated with incredible ease and openness. Things like the fact that her mother used to "spank" her for writing with her left hand and as a result "my handwriting now is bad." Or how she used to hate praying 14 times a day at Mater Dei which is a Catholic school. She was then, and still is, a Buddhist.

For one thing, Mrs Oranuj had demonstrated that the ability to talk the right kind of talk, be it trade or not, is an art not everybody can master. Take the issue of IPR (Intellectual Property Rights), for example.

Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan's personal advisers seem to want Thailand to take a hard line on this and other trade issues vis-a-vis the U.S. What is her position?

"The IP issue doesn't concern us directly, although the Ministry has set up an ad-hoc committee, IERPC (International Economic Relations Policy Committee), to help provide information concerning issues such as GSP. We're not involved directly although the deputy director-general of my department is a committee member." The IERPC is chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Pong Serasin, who has recently been involved in a heated row with the prime minister's advisers, whom he labelled "overzealous kids."

Asked to describe Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act which the U.S. has threatened to use against Thailand, a long and heavy sigh emerged. "It's when they can increase their import duties, or crack down on import items," the director-general tried to put into diplomatic words the implications of Section 301, which one information expert described more bluntly as having been designed to "squeeze the....out of you."

Section 301 is currently the most threatening of all measures the U.S. might take against Thai exporters. But the director-general is not overly pessimistic. "Of course the U.S. can use it but until that time maybe the atmosphere might change, who knows? We shouldn't be too scared. But we mustn't be careless. We know that we're now an important exporter of both manufactured and agricultural products. The more business, the more problems, that's the truth. We must slowly think of the way to solve them. It's not the end of the world. That's my personal philosophy. If we can't deal with the U.S. we must diversify our markets in other directions, although of course that'll take time."

Do you think Thailand needs a Cabinet-level position equal to the U.S. Trade Representative Office as proposed by the Prime Minister's advisers?

Again, a very long, long pause. "It's not quite the same. The U.S. Trade Representative is solely responsible to the President who appoints him, and therefore his mandate is more straightforward unlike ours who will have to listen to so many units and will not dare to make a decision for sure."

"What we have (IERPC) is a reasonable compromise. The good point is that everyone can share the problems and is equally informed; but the bad point is there's a leak in our tactical position and it takes sometime to make decisions. In trade a quick decision is important."

"By the way, why are you asking so many direct questions? I don't mind, actually. We in fact want the public to know what we're doing as well." The director-general's secretary came in. The textile people were waiting. In a world where trade is the key to international survival Mrs Oranuj Osathananda's slim shoulders carry an enormous load. She needs all the support she can muster and a better informed public might be the first place to start.

**Finance Ministry To Refinance Debt**  
42000119a Bangkok THE NATION in English  
31 Mar 89 pp 13, 24

[Text] The Finance Ministry is to issue new bonds in Japan to obtain new lower cost debts and use the money to refinance existing external loans and make early redemption of local bonds totalling at least Bt15 billion.

The amount that has been earmarked for external loan refinancing is estimated to be at least ¥ 27 billion or Bt5 billion and Bt10 billion for early redemption of government bonds in the domestic financial market.

The move to restructure both external and domestic debts to reduce interest cost has been made possible because of the considerable improvement in the fiscal position of the Thai Government.

The spectacular growth in exports and tourism earnings has also helped the country's foreign exchange reserves to more than U.S.\$8.5 billion.

Both factors as well as the increasing foreign investment and booming economy have attributed to Thailand's higher credit worthiness and the ability to borrow at world competitive interest rates.

The fiscal cash reserve at the end of March, or half-way through the current fiscal year, stood at Bt20 billion and signifying that the government is spending less than what it is earning.

By the end of the current fiscal year in September, the government's fiscal cash surplus is expected to exceed Bt30 billion if the prevailing good economic growth continues. Booming economic activities have helped businesses to increase revenue and profits and to pay more taxes.

A Finance Ministry source said the improved fiscal position is providing a good opportunity for the government to reduce its debts by using the surplus cash reserves to repay the loans before maturity.

The government plans to make early redemption of Bt10 billion worth of bonds which it had sold to financial institutions and through the Bank of Thailand.

The source, meanwhile, expressed confidence that the government would be able to pay off existing external loans before maturity in excess of Bt5 billion if confidence can be maintained that the state's fiscal position will continue to improve right through the next fiscal year.

The source said the Finance Ministry has kicked off discussions with leading Japanese bank creditors as well as the Japanese Government to repay existing loans before maturity. The source claimed that the Japanese banks and government have welcomed the Thai external debt restructuring plan.

The Thai Government also plans to issue new bonds in Japan, commonly known as Samurai bonds, at the same time. The external debt restructuring will cover both foreign loans of the government and state enterprises.

"A loan in yen appears to be the most feasible choice at the present. Previously both the government and state enterprises borrowed when the yen was ¥ 220-240 per U.S. dollar but the exchange rate today is about ¥ 130-133 per U.S. dollar. It is still worthwhile to seek new loans to refinance old debts to reduce the cost of borrowing," the source said.

He added that in the ministry's view, the yen could appreciate further to ¥ 100 per U.S. dollar.



At the end of February, total outstanding loans of the government and state enterprises were Bt634.3 billion of which Bt328.1 billion were domestic debts. The domestic debts make up Bt25.5 billion in guarantee and Bt302.6 billion in borrowing to finance budget deficits in the past.

Outstanding external loans totalled Bt306.1 billion or U.S.\$12.3 billion for the same period. The government's direct loans totalled Bt137.1 billion or U.S.\$5.48 billion and guarantees provided under state enterprises' loans totalled Bt169 billion or U.S.\$6.76 billion.

The source said the objective of the government is to reduce the burden of existing debts as much as possible since in the future it will have to borrow more to finance new infrastructure projects. And it will try to maintain the external loans ceiling at U.S.\$1.2 billion annually until 1991.

"The debt problems must be resolved when the going is good instead of spending excessively which will create problems later on," the source said.

Fiscal officials have assessed that the government's revenue will continue to increase for the next couple of years. There have already been talks of a balanced budget being achieved this year compared to an early deficit forecast of Bt29 billion.

The Finance Ministry has already cancelled its plan to borrow Bt10 billion from the Government Savings Bank which instead is trying to channel the money to state enterprises. GSB is conducting negotiations with state enterprises on interest rates for a facility of Bt5 billion.

Whether the Finance Ministry wants to create budget surplus this year remains to be seen. Finance Minister Pramual Sabhavasul has already objected to the target saying that the government already has too many infrastructure projects which it has to invest in despite having the comforting thought that a balanced budget is within reach.

The government, meanwhile, plans to issue Bt5 billion worth of new bonds from the total target of Bt13 billion shortly.

It will issue Bt2 billion worth of accrued interest bonds at an interest rate of 8.75 per cent annually for a maturity of five years, Bt1 billion of accrued interest bonds at an average interest rate of 8.75 per cent, Bt2 billion of investment bonds at interest rate of 9 per cent and a maturity of 10 years.

The government has only issued Bt7 billion new bonds during the past six months.

Sources said the government is trying to maintain the market for bonds although it has not need at the present to issue new bonds.

**SAP Official on Foreign Policy, Khukrit Role**  
42070079 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 5 Mar 89 p 3

[Interview with Mr Udon Tantisunthon, the deputy leader of the Social Action Party and deputy minister of agriculture and cooperatives, by Suphachai Butchan; date and place not specified]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Suphachai Butchan] Some people think that the foreign policy of the minister of foreign affairs is outdated. What is your view?

[Mr Udon Tantisunthon] I think that it is much better than in the past. Why? Because he has improved the line. For example, he has told Thai diplomats abroad that they must help the private sector with trade matters. They must help find markets. This is in accord with the policy announced by the government in parliament. In the past, diplomats had to use flowery speech. That is now outdated. The party leader has changed. He is using a new line, because he feels that the world is now very small.

[Suphachai Butchan] What do you think about our foreign policy on Cambodia?

[Mr Udon Tantisunthon] I don't think of it in terms of right or wrong but as a policy that is continually evolving on its own. We have constantly tried to find a solution and bring peace to Cambodia. We have tried to find a way to get the four Cambodian factions to work together and develop their country. We want to stop the fighting. We want to trade with them in peace. Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom are in Cambodia. These are two of the wonders of the world that people throughout the world would like to visit.

[Suphachai Butchan] What do you think about MR [royal title] Khukrit Pramot's criticisms of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?

[Mr Udon Tantisunthon] He has said that the foreign policy is rather outdated. Actually, the party leader has constantly revised the line of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to keep it up to date. With respect to what happened, the party leader said that he didn't know anything about this. The prime minister has said that a hot line is an issue of the superpowers, such as the Soviet Union and the United States. For example, during the time of President Kennedy and Khrushchev, it was essential to have a hot line. That is for countries that have atomic bombs. He calls it a direct line, not a hot line. He has a friend in the White House with whom he can talk.

At the cabinet meeting that day, the prime minister said that it wasn't that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs disagreed. Suppose that I have a friend in the United States. If we want to talk, we can't talk intimately. But the prime



minister has a friend in the White House. (laughs) As for these rumors, I asked the party leader about them and he assured me that there is nothing to this.

[Suphachai Butchan] Some people have said that we need a new foreign affairs minister. What do you think about this?

[Mr Udon Tantisunthon] I have asked him about that, and he has said that it isn't necessary. There is no need to change. I think that things are fine as they are. Personally, I don't see any need to make a change. Perhaps there isn't any other exciting news and so reporters.... (laughs) Take me, for example. The other day, nothing happened, but newspapers reported that I had had a confrontation with farmers from Chainat Province who had come to demand water. The newspapers said that the farmers and I were of different classes. But that is not true.

[Suphachai Butchan] What will happen if the party leader resigns his position as minister of foreign affairs?

[Mr Udon Tantisunthon] That won't happen.

[Suphachai Butchan] What is your view on the split within the Social Action Party?

[Mr Udon Tantisunthon] First of all, I have to say that with respect to the reports that there is a struggle for power within the Social Action Party, if you think about the structure of the party, you will see that the party members are the ones who elected the party leaders. And the party leaders have elected an executive committee. We have to accept the administrative organization of this committee. If there is a conflict within the party, the executive committee will know. There may be a difference of opinion. People may be dissatisfied with this or that. But in principle, we all joined the Social Action Party because we agree with the party's policies, including its financial policies, its policy of guaranteeing crop prices, and its policy of promoting subdistrict councils and providing the poor with free medical treatment. The policies can always be improved, but this administrative line is aimed at helping the poor people. Our goal is to raise people's standard of living and increase the size of the middle class. This is the duty of the government and party.

As long as the number of people in the middle class is increasing, the country will be fine. We don't consider these conflicts to be very important. We are trying to turn our party into an institution. I don't think that having minor disagreements means that the party is splitting apart.

[Suphachai Butchan] Is MR Khukrit Pramot playing a role in the Social Action Party?

[Mr Udon Tantisunthon] He plays an ideological role. He has paved the way and instilled democratic ideals in the country, which is something that we are all striving for. But some people don't know what to do. He has

pointed the way. He has tried to prevent various power groups from interfering too much. This has enabled democracy to make headway. I am sure that you are aware of his line. He will not permit interference. (laughs)

[Suphachai Butchan] Whenever MR Khukrit writes about the party, it always creates quite a stir. You probably consider him to be part of the party, right?

[Mr Udon Tantisunthon] No. That is, he is not the party leader. But his views influence the thinking of party members and of people in general. And so whenever he writes something, it creates quite a stir. (laughs) [passage omitted]

#### **General, Opinion Leaders Comment on Indochina Policy**

##### **General Sunthon on Help to Lao Army**

42070080 Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai  
4 Mar 89 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, the chief of staff officers, presided at a ceremony to send off an army mobile medical unit, which was leaving to go help people living in remote areas in the northeast. [passage omitted]

After the ceremony, Gen Sunthon talked with reporters about the matter of Gen Sisavat Keobounphan sending Lao soldiers to attend radio communications seminars here.

Gen Sunthon said that Gen Sisavat had requested this. He asked us to help the Lao army repair and maintain its communications equipment. They know how to use this equipment, but they can't repair it. We are paying the expenses to help them.

The chief of staff officers said that after the seminars, we provide them with what equipment we can. We have also held seminars on agriculture. As for weapons development, that has not been discussed.

When asked what the Thai army has done to help Laos, Gen Sunthon said that we have surveyed agricultural areas to determine which areas are suited to growing vegetable gardens and to raising livestock. The fact that we are helping them shows that relations between us have improved. We are only helping them supervise things.

A reporter said that the present situation seems to be rather tense, because there is apparently a conflict between the military and the government in the wake of the government inviting Mr Hun Sen, the prime minister of the Phnom Penh government, to visit Thailand. He asked what the truth is.

The chief of staff officers said that there is definitely no conflict. That's impossible. He said that he wished everyone who thinks that way could see how the military and government discuss matters. But some matters cannot be revealed. He said that this matter was discussed beforehand. The military knew about the talks with Mr Hun Sen beforehand. We all have our own work to do, but we discuss things together.

Gen Sunthon said that the military discussed the visit to Thailand by Mr Hun Sen with the prime minister and with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The prime minister did not make this decision by himself. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not take action by itself either. Mr Hun Sen came on his own and so there was no honor guard there to welcome him as in the case of other leaders who have visited Thailand. In conclusion, Big George said: "Don't spread rumors. Don't overstep the bounds. We must all support the government, because it is on the right path. Like spectators at a boxing match, people can cheer on the boxers as much as they want, but the boxers can't always do what the spectators want. The government is doing a good job and so we should all provide support," said Big George in conclusion.

#### Columnist Views Policy Changes

42070080 Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai  
8 Mar 89 p 2

["Around the World" column by Trairat Sunthoraphat: "America and Indochina"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] It's worth noting that contacts between the United States and Vietnam have increased. Delegations of Vietnamese scholars composed of several dozen people have visited the United States. And just last week, another 20 Vietnamese requested visas. At the same time, a team of 20 American doctors went to help treat patients in Vietnam in accord with the "Yim Phimchai" plan to open the door to Vietnam.

American businessmen are interested in doing business and investing there. But they are still prohibited by the restrictions imposed by the U.S. government, which wants Vietnam to withdraw all its troops from Cambodia.

As for the matter of peace in Cambodia, Thailand should collect data. The United States would like to have information so that it will know what position to take and how to treat Vietnam.

America's original plan was to ask permission to go there in order to look for the remains of American servicemen missing in action during the Vietnam War. That is now an outdated way of establishing contact with Vietnam. Thus, the United States has had to start negotiating directly.

As for opening the door to Indochina, the United States does not want to "miss the train through Laos and Cambodia to Hanoi." Thailand has played an important

role. It has played the role of a leader in this matter instead of following the lead of others, who are far removed from the situation and who have not been adversely affected as has Thailand. Thus, it is not surprising that Thailand has expressed its views and tried to find a solution. Others cannot fault Thailand in view of the fact that the three Indochina countries support Thailand's position. We don't have to mention the Soviet Union. It is probably very happy with Thailand's role. The same is true of the Heng Samrin regime and the Vietnamese government. As for China, it understands Thailand quite well.

Those who are thinking about trade or who are interested in the Indochina problem should watch things closely. Something unexpected could happen at any time.

#### MP Criticizes Cambodia Travel Ban

42070080 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai  
2 Mar 89 pp 1, 4

[Excerpt] On the afternoon of 1 March at parliament, Mr Piyanat Watcharaphon, a Ruam Thai Party MP from Sisaket Province, talked with reporters about the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee being prohibited from traveling to Cambodia. He said that at a time when Thailand is trying to find a way to solve the Cambodia problem, the Subcommittee wants to go see the situation inside Cambodia. Legislators should have a chance to see what is going on there so that they can help the administration find a solution. But the subcommittee has been forbidden from traveling to Cambodia. This has led to doubts about the implementation of our foreign policy. This has made people suspicious of the chairman of the subcommittee, an SAP [Social Action Party] MP, the party headed by the minister of foreign affairs, who disagrees with the prime minister's policy. In view of this, there are those who think that the ban on travel to Cambodia is the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Piyanat said that unless we know the facts, we will not be able to solve the problem. The government should review the implementation of its foreign policy and consider the situation. He said that he agrees with MR [royal title] Khukrit Pramot, who feels that Thailand needs a new foreign affairs minister. Because the views of the present foreign affairs minister with respect to solving the Cambodia problem are not in accord with the prime minister's policy. This will create obstacles. Besides this, other countries won't believe that we can solve the Cambodia problem if the present minister of foreign affairs remains in office. Thus, a new foreign affairs minister should be appointed now that our policy has changed.

"This does not mean that I want the SAP to withdraw from the cabinet. It's just that unless a new foreign affairs minister is appointed, our policy for solving the Cambodia problem will not achieve the results desired. The SAP should consider finding someone to replace the

present minister. That will help end the confusion. People should consider this to be a national matter and not use this for their own purposes," said Mr Piyanat.

Mr Piyanat added that as for saying that no official letter of invitation was received, he has visited Cambodia before and they gave him a very warm reception even though he did not have an official invitation. He said that personal relations are more important than protocol. Even though the subcommittee did not have an official invitation, we could still have learned a lot about conditions there, and this knowledge could have been used to help reach a decision. He said that that would have been very useful.

"The SAP has been like this ever since it changed party leaders. It's a shame that we have missed such a good opportunity. Air Chief Marshal Sitthi had a chance to be prime minister, but he didn't take it. Now it's too late," said Mr Piyanat.

#### **Editorial Backs Chatchai**

42070080 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai  
4 Mar 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Thailand's Prestige"]

[Excerpts] MR [royal title] Khukrit Pramot has sharply criticized foreign affairs officials and the minister of foreign affairs for obstructing or not keeping pace with the Gen Chatchai's foreign affairs policy on the Indochina problem and relations with the United States and other countries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs claims that it doesn't know what the prime minister's policy is. Because this is not the policy formulated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the policy to which several administrations have adhered and which no one has ever dared change. [passage omitted]

The prestige of Thailand and the Thai people was ignored for so long that people tended to think that we had to follow the wishes of the superpowers. People did not think that we were an independent country with an independent foreign policy. That was the case even though we have had a more important diplomatic and political position than many neighboring countries, because we have always been independent.

The foreign affairs policy of Gen Chatchai Chunhawan has had an immediate impact on the country's position. Thailand is now viewed as a political leader in this region of the world. The president of the United States has even suggested installing a direct telephone line, or hot line, to the Thai prime minister so that they can discuss things directly whenever an emergency arises. This shows that Thailand is no longer saddled with a backward foreign policy that prevents us from standing on our own feet. Thailand should preserve this good foreign policy.

#### **Opinion Makers Comment on Indochina Matters**

##### **Editorial Criticizes Sihanouk, U.S. NCR Support**

42070082 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai  
13 Mar 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Don't Be Fooled By Sihanouk's Rhetoric"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The meeting between Prince Sihanouk and Gen Chatchai Chunhawan in Beijing was part of the political game being played by Sihanouk. He was trying to lull the prime minister so that he could use him for his own purposes in the Cambodia problem just like he has tried to lull other countries that have foolishly backed him these past 10 years. But this has not brought peace to Cambodia. Cambodians have continued to fight and kill each other.

Thais are pleased with Gen Chatchai's policy of building peace and transforming the battlefield in Indochina into a trading field. Thus, when meeting with Prince Sihanouk, who has constantly tried to thwart Thailand's policies, the Thai people hope that the prime minister will adhere to his policy and not be fooled by Sihanouk's rhetoric or commit the country and people to something that could lead to loss of life and economic hardships without good reason.

As for restoring peace in Cambodia, the United States now seems bent on encouraging a continuation of the fighting there by providing weapons to Prince Sihanouk. In the past, they provided only financial aid. If the United States actually does this, there will be genocide in Cambodia because of the lust for power of certain people, who will not stop to consider the great suffering that this will cause the 5 million Cambodians who remain. This is a very sad matter. Thais should not support this evil plan.

##### **Visitors to SRV, PRK Noted**

42070082 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai  
11 Mar 89 p 2

["Stop the World" column by Kamon: "U.S. Representatives visit Vietnam and Cambodia"]

[Excerpts] The United States does not have diplomatic relations with Vietnam. But U.S. government officials and private citizens have regularly visited Vietnam on various pretexts. Government officials, for example, have said that they have contacted the Vietnamese government in an effort to locate American servicemen missing in action during the war. These servicemen could even be alive. Even finding their remains would be good, because it would help to comfort the relatives of these servicemen.



Americans were traveling to Vietnam even before the United States withdrew its forces from Indochina in 1975. It can be said that the Vietnamese government won the hearts of the American people even before it defeated the American army fighting in Vietnam.

On 6 March, a delegation from the U.S. Foreign Relations Council concluded a 1-week visit to Vietnam. During the visit, they signed an agreement to establish contact between the United States and Vietnam. [passage omitted]

Even though they were not legal representatives of the U.S. government, the members of this delegation met with officials from the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Vietnamese-American Association, and other Vietnamese officials. [passage omitted]

After that, they flew to Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, where they were welcomed by Hun Sen, the prime minister of Cambodia. [passage omitted]

The Americans who visited Vietnam and Cambodia play an important role in providing data and information to the American government and people. They will play an important role in formulating American foreign policy in the future, particularly policy concerning Cambodia after Vietnam withdraws its forces. After seeing the pictures of the barbaric acts committed by the Khmer Rouge, whom Prince Sihanouk supported in the effort to topple the Lon Nol government in 1975 and who controlled Cambodia until 1978, the Americans will know what type of government the Cambodian people want in their country.

If you are a superpower like the United States, you can do whatever you want and not have to worry about being criticized. The United States is the leader of the free world. It is not a second- or third-level country.

**Columnist Hails Chatchai for Cambodia Successes**  
42070082 Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 11 Mar 89 p 2

["Economic Commentary" column by Nai Klahan]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Our contact has been limited to the Khmer coalition, that is, the displaced Cambodian factions living along the Cambodian border. Some are living in hotels along the Chao Phraya River and some are living in other countries. They like to talk about how patriotic they are and about the correctness of their position. At the same time, we have viewed the Cambodians who control Cambodia as puppets of Vietnam. But Gen Chatchai has turned the game around. We continue to have contact with the Khmer coalition just like before, but we are now in contact with the fourth Cambodian faction, the faction in control in Cambodia.

Prime Minister Chatchai has achieved excellent political results. There is even the possibility that we will play a leading economic role in Indochina. [passage omitted]

**Leading Bankers View NIC Status**

42070084c Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 15 Mar 89 p 2

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Mr Prayun Chindapradit, the managing director of the Thai Military Bank, said that Thailand is still far from becoming a NIC [newly industrialized country]. Our industrial growth is still not very great even though we will have the eastern seaboard project. At present, only 10 percent of our school graduates are scientists and industrial experts. This is a much lower percentage than in the NIC countries, where 30-40 percent of the students are studying such subjects. Besides this, it takes huge amounts of savings for investment in projects and technological development, which creates problems for the other economic sectors. He said that he has told the Bank of Thailand that it must consider this carefully. Data should be collected on how much money the commercial banks have agreed to loan for various projects. He said that the figure is probably as high as 10 billion baht. Unless this is clarified, credit for other sectors may be limited, and there could be another credit squeeze, which happened 4-5 years ago. [passage omitted]

Mr Banyong Lamsa, the managing director of the Thai Farmers Bank, said that the northern region has great potential. We are ready to become a NIC. The various factors, such as managers, laborers, natural resources, agricultural produce, and a public utilities and public services system, are all in place.

"But we should ask ourselves if we want to be and should be a NIC. The northern region is very rich. In particular, the agricultural sector can earn a good income for the people. Income distribution is good." [passage omitted]

Mr Banyong said that the important thing is that pollution will increase and poison the environment very quickly. What is worrisome is that the farmers and hill tribes will abandon their fields and go to work in the towns. There will be fewer and fewer tourist attractions. The once smiling faces of the people will turn bitter.

"I don't want to see the wonderful customs and traditions of the north destroyed. The north is already very developed. The people here can live on what they have. With our beautiful environment here, let Bangkok and the eastern and southern seaboard become NICs. The north, particularly Chiang Mai, should develop gradually in order to preserve the nature of the north for future generations," said the managing director of the Thai Farmers Bank.

Mr Nib J. Nonthaphanthawat, the manager of the Technical Office, Bangkok Bank Ltd, said that we cannot help becoming a NIC. Our resources are declining while our population is increasing. Becoming a NIC means raising the standard of living of all groups. The heart of being a NIC is increasing the value of goods as much as possible, improving the quality of our people, developing technology, exporting goods, and having money for investment.



If we borrow funds, we have to repay them. Or younger people will have to make sacrifices, even though they earn a good income, in order to invest in projects to build a foundation so that the country can become a NIC. We will have large industries, and development will spread throughout the country. There will be a better distribution of income. Looking at our domestic savings, we will soon become a NIC whether we want to or not.

Mr Nit Wangwiwat, the president of the Chiang Mai Chamber of Commerce and the president of the Northern Tea Producers Association, said that if becoming a NIC will mean higher incomes, people will want to become a NIC. But if that means changing our comfortable way of life and becoming an industrial city in order to increase incomes, we should think hard about this. [passage omitted]

"In the NIC era, the government must be strong. It must carry out things to the end. When the Japanese government wanted to build the Narita airport, people demonstrated by laying down in the road. They were dragged away. If Thailand becomes a NIC, the government will have to build atomic power plants, and there will definitely be demonstrations against this," said Mr Nit. He added that the government has implemented a policy of promoting industry nationwide. He said that it should reconsider its plans. It isn't necessary for the north to develop like Bangkok. We should formulate our own development policy. There are several ways to increase incomes. It isn't necessary to industrialize. He said that as someone from Chiang Mai, he doesn't think that it is necessary to industrialize and he doesn't want to see the north become a NIC. [passage omitted]

#### Opposition Leader on Foreign Policy, Chatchai Performance

42070083b Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN  
in Thai 19-25 Mar 89 pp 18-21

[Interview with Narong Wongwan, the leader of the Ruam Thai Party and acting leader of the Unity Party; date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] Is the opposition satisfied with the way that the government has managed things?

[Narong Wongwan] The present prime minister has been a politician ever since he was very young. He knows all the political tricks. People in general may be satisfied with his performance, because he never says no. But can he actually do those things? I am talking about the prime minister here. As for the ministers, they have many tricks and are deceiving the people. But I won't go into that. I don't want to say too much about the ministries. There are many people who think that the opposition has reached an agreement with the administration. There are cartoons portraying Chatchai and Narong wearing boxing gloves and dancing around each other. We support the correct things that he is doing for the country. When

he does something good, we say so, but when he does something wrong, we have to criticize him. And if he continues to do something that is wrong, there must be a debate.

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] Are you satisfied with the work of the prime minister?

[Narong Wongwan] The prime minister and several of the ministers have done a good job. Everyone makes mistakes. Only those who don't do anything don't make mistakes. If someone makes a minor mistake, we won't say anything.

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] The opposition is rather quiet right now.

[Narong Wongwan] Our MPs have to gather data. It's not that we aren't doing anything. You have to gather data and evidence before you can say anything. We have to have factual data. We can't slander them. The opposition has to get out among the people and see if they are experiencing any problems. The opposition parties must determine what is the best way to handle things. We have to decide whether to confront the government directly or submit a motion. Thus, the fact that we are quiet does not mean that the opposition parties are inactive or that we are not doing anything.

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] Because of the opposition's silence, there are reports that the opposition parties have reached an agreement with the government or that certain parties have won bids on various projects.

[Narong Wongwan] The important thing is people's intentions. It's not that we aren't doing anything. We don't plan to join the government. We aren't remaining quiet in the hope of joining the government. If they do something good, they deserve to be praised. If they do something wrong, we have to have proof of this before we can criticize them. MPs are visiting the people. I have to get out among the people, too, and earn a living.

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] One reason why the opposition is so quiet is that you are busy trying to unite the opposition parties, isn't that right?

[Narong Wongwan] Not really. But we do have to have time to meet together. Before you can unite various parties, you have to understand each other. The party leaders, secretary generals, and party members have to be able to get along with each other. [passage omitted]

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] There are rumors that the Unity Party is being established in order to form a base for a senior military officer.

[Narong Wongwan] That is just talk. No senior officer has ever asked us to join together or said anything of that sort. We will allow officers to join the party. We won't allow bad politicians to join the party. Anyone is free to

join the party. It isn't necessary for a person to have influence. They don't have to be a military or police officer. No military officer has offered to help win votes for us. I won't allow myself to become involved in something like that.

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] If Gen Chawalit resigned from the military, would the Unity Party welcome him as a member?

[Narong Wongwan] There wouldn't be any problem. We welcome everyone regardless of their profession.

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] What position would he be given?

[Narong Wongwan] He would be a party member. It's up to party members to elect people to the various positions. It's not up to one particular person. We have rules. If people feel that he is a capable person who can help the country, they can elect him. It's up to the members of the party, because we have a democratic system.

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] It seems that he has a good chance.

[Narong Wongwan] It's up to the members of the party. If they feel that he can do a better job than me, they will elect him. That's fine. That's the proper way. There wouldn't be any problem.

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] Didn't you recently meet with Gen Chawalit at a hotel in Trang Province to discuss his joining the Unity Party?

[Narong Wongwan] Actually, if we had wanted to meet with him, there wasn't any reason to go to Trang. There are many places to meet in Bangkok. We went to the south to see what was being done to help the people in the wake of the severe floods. We reported to the government on what else needed to be done. Together with a member of the Prachachon Party, Mr Phithak, they held a meeting in Trang Province, to which we were invited. There are few hotels in Trang Province. We happened to stay at the same hotel. Gen Chawalit and I know each other and so we had dinner together. That's all. [passage omitted]

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] What do you think about the prime minister's foreign policy?

[Narong Wongwan] I like his foreign policy. He is willing to allow former enemies to become friends and is trying to turn the battlefield into a trading field. I am pleased by this. I am a politician but had never thought about that. The economy and the people's standard of living are very important. The peace of the country is an important issue. Thus, everyone is pleased by what the prime minister is trying to do. But will he succeed?

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] Would you comment on the performance of Minister Sittithi Sawetsila?

[Narong Wongwan] As you have heard me say before, I don't know whether he is acting contrary to the policy or not. But the prime minister is doing the right thing. If he is not doing things properly, why doesn't the minister of foreign affairs take action? Perhaps the prime minister has taken action because the foreign affairs minister has refused to do anything. We don't know.

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] How has the opposition monitored the performance of the foreign affairs minister?

[Narong Wongwan] We have monitored his activities and listened to what he has said. The foreign affairs minister does not have a policy, but the prime minister does. Why doesn't the prime minister order the minister of foreign affairs to take action? After all, that is the work of the foreign minister. I really don't know what is going on.

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] Some people view the policy of transforming the battlefield into a trading field as an attempt to benefit certain businessmen and parties.

[Narong Wongwan] I don't think that that is correct. Particular parties and ministers will not be the only ones to benefit. It is the people who will benefit. It is the people who are involved in the fighting in this region who will benefit. Peace is the first thing. Second, trade requires that we have relations with them. I think that we can separate economics from politics. Having different administrative systems is no obstacle to trade. There are both political relations and trade relations.

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] Will the conflict between the prime minister and the minister of foreign affairs lead to a cabinet reshuffle?

[Narong Wongwan] I don't think so. Usually, people have different ideas. It's always possible to reach an agreement. But if I were the foreign minister and the prime minister took things into his own hands, I would resign. A cabinet reshuffle does not concern me. The opposition is not trying to cause a split in the hope of joining the government.

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] If the Social Action Party leaves the coalition, would the Unity Party join the government?

[Narong Wongwan] I don't know. We would have to see if we are ready. Before we can join the government, we have to make sure that we support the same policies as the government. If the government does something wrong, we will have to vote. If they invite us to join the coalition, we will have to see if we can do the job given us.

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] Do you think Minister Sittithi should resign?

[Narong Wongwan] If I were Minister Sitthi and the prime minister did that, I would resign. [passage omitted]

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] You used to be a senior member of the Social Action Party. In your view, what is the situation of this party today?

[Narong Wongwan] I have not followed the affairs of the party. Since leaving the Social Action Party, I have had nothing to do with the party, although I am still friends with some party members, such as Deputy Prime Minister Phong and certain ministers. We did not run against each other during the last election. It's incorrect to say that I don't get along with them. Thus, I don't know what the party is doing. We monitor the activities of the cabinet in general, not a particular party.

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] The Social Action Party seems to have very serious problems, particularly with its main base, that is, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[Narong Wongwan] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is not a large ministry. But it is important, because foreign policy is set by the minister. But now that the prime minister has set the policy, will the minister implement the policy? [passage omitted]

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] In purchasing timber from Burma, there is the problem of Karen influence.

[Narong Wongwan] Those who obtain the concessions know what is going on. That is, they pay a tax to Burma. And when they purchase timber from the Karen, they have to pay an additional sum. This is the result of closing the forests.

[SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN] Is it possible that timber is being cut along the border inside Thailand?

[Narong Wongwan] Yes. Unless, this is monitored closely, timber will be cut here and transported across the Moei River. In some places, there is not even a river to demarcate the border. There are not enough officials. It would not help even if there were a large number of officials. It would be a waste of money since there is a lack of efficiency. [passage omitted]

## POLITICAL

**Editor's Dismissal Generates Public Controversy**  
42090215 Paris DOAN KET in Vietnamese  
No 410, Feb 89 p 24

[Unattributed article: "Three Opinions on VAN NGHE Controversy"]

[Text] Two months after the Secretariat of the Vietnam Writers Association decided to dismiss the editor in chief of the weekly newspaper VAN NGHE (see the December 1988 issue of DOAN KET), public opinion in the country continues to react in the newspapers. We introduce below the opinions of writers Tran Bach Dang and Duong Thu Huong in reply to correspondents from the two newspapers TIEN PHONG (17 January 1989) and PHU NU THANH PHO HO CHI MINH [Ho Chi Minh City Women], and a suggestion from a reader of SAIGON GIAI PHONG (27 December 1988).

**Tran Bach Dang**

[Correspondent] In your status as a writer, what do you think about the VAN NGHE incident and the transfer of writer Nguyen Van Ngoc?

[Tran Bach Dang] I respect both VAN NGHE and Nguyen Ngoc. The newspaper has strongly and properly "renovated." However, VAN NGHE to some degree has revealed a couple of weaknesses and it is easy to understand that there is no birth without pain.

I myself have made some remarks to Tran Do, Nguyen Ngoc, Nguyen Khai, Hoang Minh Chau, and Nguyen Duy about the "danger" of renovation colliding with obstacles in the actual situation of our nation if we don't know how to exercise self-control or administer an appropriate dose, and we should not follow the model of every other country. Twice the newspaper VAN NGHE has published my viewpoints. I stand on the side of renovation—naturally, not since yesterday—but still reiterate that the "amplitudes" should be given attention and literature placed within the overall current of thought.

On the other hand, I am protective of the following thought: let there be debate. Obvious truth, even if relative and of a phased nature, surpasses the friction of open, straightforward, and honest opinions, and completely avoids private interests in literary composition. VAN NGHE has some readers who like it and some who don't. So let there be differences in the newspaper if those differences are related to society.

"Banning" is an old-fashioned method although we still lack absolute freedom when that freedom violates national security, national ethics, issues within the political program of all the people, and sacred aspects revered

by the people. I do not endorse "banning" on those grounds. And, as such, I do not endorse the "transfer" (or some other word) of Nguyen Ngoc from his position as editor in chief.

Publishing a fine, strong, and true newspaper is not easy. If there are faults, efforts are made to correct them. Who dares to beat his breast and declare he is not wrong? Isn't publishing an incomplete newspaper wrong? Paper and writing are expended with no one reading the paper—yet, no editor-in-chief is "transferred" at all! It's like the economic tale: if work is done at a loss, there is compensation but if work produces an extremely honest profit, beware of an audit? Our death is in such a topsy-turvy situation.

**Duong Thu Huong**

[PHU NU THANH PHO HO CHI MINH] You are in complete support of Ngoc, aren't you? Is it possible that you greatly admire Ngoc?

[Duong Thu Huong] I do not admire Nguyen Ngoc but I am fair toward him. I respect and support his contributions to the newspaper and to the present democratization and renovation movement. However, I criticized the weak actions of Ngoc in the meeting of the Writers Association Executive Committee (9 September 1988). Actually, Ngoc was unable to achieve a majority for reversal or to raise his hand in casting a silent vote. He should have maintained his view to the end. If the sun is round, even if burning in fire, we cannot concede it is square.

If Ngoc is unable to comprehend his mistakes, I will no longer respect him. However, happily Ngoc has recognized his erroneous actions that at times offended the trust of his friends and hurt the overall struggle movement. However, from the aspect of a human being, I as well as my friends will share the feelings of Nguyen Ngoc for there is nothing easy about a truly harsh environment, loneliness, and fatigue.

[PHU NU THANH PHO HO CHI MINH] In your opinion, who can replace Ngoc?

[Duong Thu Huong] I am a writer advocating the overthrow of idols so I would never elevate Ngoc to the position of an idol. Nguyen Ngoc, Nguyen Van X or Y, you or I have no value from the individual aspect. We only have value when we are someone beneficial to the country and the people. Why is the public fiercely opposing the action of the Standing Committee of the Writers Association? Because it was not only aimed at one individual, Nguyen Ngoc, with a trend toward renovation in the press and literature but struck at their very own yearnings. The yearning for democracy and openness, the yearning to change a barracks style model of socialism, the yearning to improve the state structure and deliver the country from poverty, backwardness, etc.



Concerning the yearnings of the masses, recent achievements of the press and literature have not been helpful at all. In my opinion, the official rank of openness has only been partially achieved, with extremely few elements of democratization.

Returning to your question, I wish to reply that I have not thought about who should fill the position of Nguyen Ngoc. However, I am sure that whoever shoulders that responsibility, whether famous or not, will have an extremely difficult job. Probably the initial reason is not in his ability but in the hostility of his colleagues and the public.

[PHU NU THANH PHO HO CHI MINH] This recent event reveals in the greatest and most visible manner the division in the ranks. What is your viewpoint?

[Duong Thu Huong] Good, fire tests gold and difficulty tests strength. There have always been undesirable elements, flatterers and cunning and tricky individuals. We should not be sad or lament. Let us smile and continue our contributions to the task of renovation.

#### A SAIGON GIAI PHONG Reader

I suggest that the newspapers SAIGON GIAI PHONG and TUOI TRE and the weekly VAN NGHE publish a "Solicitation of Readers' Opinions" so readers can exercise their rights of collective ownership of the press, and explain their attitudes on the following:

—Did the newspaper VAN NGHE "seriously deviate" or not?

—Must Editor-in-Chief Nguyen Ngoc be replaced or not?

The results of this solicitation of readers' opinions on the VAN NGHE incident should be publicized.

#### The Tuyen, Ho Chi Minh City

SAIGON GIAI PHONG replies:

We wish to acknowledge the idea of Mr. The Tuyen. In our opinion, this problem has become too clear and there is no necessity for soliciting readers' opinions.

### MILITARY

#### Some Localities in HCM City Barely Fill Draft Quotas

42090194 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG  
in Vietnamese 8 Mar 89 p 2

[Article by Phuc Nguyen: "Exchange of Ideas About Drafting Youths Into the Army in the Municipality—Many Localities Barely Fill Their Draft Quotas"]

[Text] The Ho Chi Minh City Military Command recently organized an exchange of ideas about the municipality implementing the Military Obligation Law, with

emphasis put on the quality of draftees having joined the armed forces each year. Taking part in the exchange were military cadres, party and administration leading cadres, and representatives of a number of committees and sectors in the municipality, and of districts, precincts, and a number of villages.

Colonel Nguyen Huu Tri, deputy commander in charge of the draft, opened the discussion, reviewed the implementation of the Military Obligation Law by the municipality in every year since 1985, and informed the audience that the percentage of unqualified youths being rejected was about 10 percent every year. The cultural background of draftees generally was poor. Many people, including cadres, party members, and local party and administration leaders, who had misunderstood the phrase, "The army is the youths' great school," brought into the army even some youths who had criminal and police records. Very few recruits were Youth Union members. There were almost no party members. The military obligation councils at all levels had not really attached importance to the quality at the "incoming" end of the army, for they only tried to fill the quotas and to fulfill the goals first. Many of them felt that supplying the unit with the required number of recruits would mean the end of their responsibility. The recruits-receiving units had to bear the presence in their ranks of deserters and soldiers having health problems and poor political and moral qualities. In the cases of those people who had family difficulties and should have been deferred but were delivered anyway, the localities later had to sign papers to request their discharge and return.

Nguyen Van Nam, deputy commander of Tan Thoi Nhi Village (Hoc Mon District) military unit, said that for several years the military cadres of his village had to take care of almost the entire task of preparing for the draft. In many localities, the Communist Youth Union chapters were unable to manage the youths; the public security forces were also unable to know the exact situation in connection with the local youths, and failed to actively coordinate their work with the Military Obligation Council members in the task of registering, managing, and selecting draftees. In Tan Qui Dong Village (Nha Be District), the same situation existed. Lam Phuoc Hung, commander of the village military unit, pointed out that at the time of the draft the military cadres of his village had to go on their own initiative to see the village's party committee echelons, administration, committees, sectors, and mass organizations in order to suggest the work they could do for them.

While the quality of draftees was poor in many localities, the 11th Precinct for many consecutive years succeeded in drafting youths of good quality. Nguyen Huu Hien, vice chairman of the precinct's People's Committee, said, "If the local party committee echelons provided good leadership, it would be possible to achieve the highest degree of coordination with the sectors and mass organizations." In the 11th Precinct subwards, there was a considerably well-coordinated job being done by all

their military obligation councils. Each subward had a list of the youths in the draft age and a full knowledge of their family background, health, ideological thinking, and feelings. The mass organizations there used many forms of mobilizing and encouraging youths to join the army. The Women's Association of Subward 1 considered providing the youths who had family difficulties with allowances in the form of cash and rice. The Association of Combatants' Mothers in Subward 2 raised fund for awarding savings books to draftees. The precinct took money from the "Front Line of the Fatherland" fund to set up savings accounts for draftees, who would use the money in them to get vocational training after they returned from serving in the army. Subward 6 took money from its own fund to give allowances to the families that had difficulties and to provide housing for the would-be draftees.

Colonel Hoang Chi, deputy chief of the Municipal Military Command Mobilization Office, raised the question of linking the basic-level youth management task with the overall social management job. For the time being, in the subwards and villages of Ho Chi Minh City, large numbers of youths do not benefit from good management and have almost no education about the Military Obligation Law, nor any military vocational training.

Vu Van Dung, the representative of the Labor, Wounded Soldiers, and Social Affairs Service, believed that one of the reasons behind the loose implementation of the Military Obligation Law and the poor quality of draftees was the really backward and old-fashioned policies for military personnel and their families. Those families that had some members in the army still encountered many difficulties. Former military personnel after their discharge from the army would find it very hard to get a job because of their poor cultural background and a lack of vocational skills. Because this specific matter has to do with many committees and sectors, the parties concerned need to combine their efforts in order to be able to resolve the job problem for the discharged military personnel.

Offering some conclusions about the exchange of ideas, Nguyen Huu Tri agreed with many speakers about the need to spread through education the sense of responsibility and to disseminate more widely through propaganda the Military Obligation Law in the party, among the people, and in the army. As the party has set forth the two strategic tasks of building and defending the fatherland, in any localities and sectors, the party committee echelons and administration must provide leadership over and organize good implementation of the Military Obligation Law. Military organs at all levels must play better their role of serving as the staff of the local party committee echelons and administration in connection with this work. To understand correctly the law and to act correctly in accordance with the law—this will certainly help to ensure the quality of draftees and both quantity and quality in terms of the annual military draft.

**Truong Son Corps Changes Organization Model**  
42090212B Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN  
in Vietnamese 22 Feb 89 p 1

[Article by Quang Dau: "Truong Son Corps Changes Over to Economic Accounting on the Construction General Department Model"]

[Text] In 1989 the Truong Son Corps will become the Truong Son Construction General Department. The new organizational model will be perfected in the 1989-1990 2-year period, so that it can truly adopt economic accounting and attain high effectiveness.

In 1988, although there were many difficulties and upheavals in the national economy, the Truong Son Corps still fulfilled all its norms. The unit took on the construction of 18 projects all over the nation and signed 520 economic contracts. The value of projects that were completed, passed final inspection, and were paid for was more than 16.5 billion dong, which amounted to 118.4 percent of the plan, and internal production amounted to more than 1 billion dong. Labor productivity was 123 percent of the plan norm, and profits were 153.8 percent. The units, such as B84, B5, M85, B70, B73, etc., outstandingly fulfilled their missions. Especially, unit N63, at the Hoa Binh hydroelectricity plant construction site, made outstanding progress and its value of construction was nearly 30 percent of the total value of construction by the Corps.

But the old organizational structure still prevented the units from fully exercising their right of autonomy in commerce and production, manifested in such aspects as continued dependence on orders from the upper echelon and using purely military organization to manage economic activities. In the spirit of the resolutions regarding renovation approved by the Sixth Party Congress, and implementing Decision 217 of the Council of Ministers and the recent resolution of the Military Commission of the Party Committee on the economic construction mission of the army, the Truong Son Corps will change over to economic accounting in accordance with the new structure and the 10 major contents: the single price mechanism, with a discontinuation of price subsidies; materials must be bought and sold; there will no longer be two separate economic and national defense systems; capital will be self-created for self-investment, there will be self-plan balancing with no national defense expenditures, and administrative expenditures will be reduced to the maximum and contracted; the labor force will no longer be made up of youths fulfilling their military obligations but of personnel and workers on contract; the production and commercial activities will be on the model of a general corporation, enterprise, or corporation, etc. The Truong Son Construction General Corporation will extend its production-commercial activities to all economic units in Vietnam and abroad.

Thus after 10 years of participating in the nation's economic development, and after having changed its organization three times, this change to the general corporation model is truly a new turning point in comprehensive, highly effective economic accounting by the Truong Son Corps.

### **Military Region Commander Evaluates Conscription Efforts**

42090196a Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN  
in Vietnamese 14 Feb 89 p 2

[Interview with Military Region 9 Commander, Lt. Gen. Nguyen De, at Military Region headquarters by QUAN DOI NHAN DAN correspondent Dinh Huyen: "Conscription is an Annual Duty, Not One To Be Complacent About or Neglected"; date of interview not given. First paragraph is QUAN DOI NHAN DAN introduction]

[Text] At the beginning of 1989, the chief military editor of QUAN DOI NHAN DAN suggested a meeting with Lt. Gen. Nguyen De, Commander of Military Region 9, to ask questions about youth conscription. The commander promised to prepare for the meeting but suggested that to make the exchange of opinions more effective, the correspondent should first seek understanding in agencies of the military region and visit a number of basic units. Through his grasp of the actual situation, the initially projected questions of the correspondent were almost bankrupted. The exchange, which took place one evening at T81—a guest house at the Military Region 9 headquarters—was truly relaxed and pleasant.

"In only a little over a month," the commander began the exchange, "youths will start down the conscription road. Four of the eight provinces in the Mekong Delta will deliver troops during the first phase (after the lunar new year). The four remaining provinces will be conducting phase two conscription. Did you make any observations in your study of the preparations for this conscription phase in our military region?"

"May I speak informally?"

"Of course!"

"Precisely as you say, 'In only a little over a month, youths will be leaving on the conscription road.' However, no bustle has been noticed in the preparation atmosphere and there are even many primary level cadres and people asking, 'In the moderating situation of the world and the area of Southeast Asia, the country is still feverish due to poverty. Why doesn't the state reduce the number of inductees instead of calling for continued conscription?'"

"Is your 'thinking the same' as the people?"

"I could only talk to a few people. Now, I suggest that you explain to the more than 10 million people in the military region."

"I suppose that thought and question are not unique to Military Region 9 but are widespread throughout the nation. It only shows that our ideological work is not positively leading the way. The situation of the world and the area of Southeast Asia is moderating. That is the burning desire of millions and millions of people on the earth, especially those who have experienced too many prolonged wars. However, our people have not recognized that every country in the world, no matter whether it is a "peaceful oasis" and has not gone to war for centuries, and no matter what its political system, capitalist, nationalist or socialist, must be vigilant with constant concern for building its armed forces. Even if troops are sustained and trained for decades and centuries, they are at times used only 1 day! From the poorest to the richest and the smallest to the largest countries in the world, all require a correspondingly strong army with the capabilities and strategies to defend their nation. Not to mention us, with not a few hidden enemies in the country wishing to rear their heads, a still unstable border situation, etc."

"Faced with the present background, naturally our party and state have and are appropriately revising troop strength, but conscription is still an annual duty that must be performed. Service in the ranks has a time limit in accordance with regulations and if no recruits were provided for 1 year, naturally some soldiers in the military region would have to remain in the army past their tour of duty."

"Commander, the thinking of the people in the delta involves not only that. Since Resolution 10 of the Political Bureau, not a few localities, units and families have been in turmoil over the land problem. In such a situation, I think it is not the conscription matter alone but all aspects of the local military task in general that are suffering from a fragmentation of supervision and achievement organization. In your estimate, will the quantity and quality of youths conscripted during this phase one of 1989 be assured?"

"That is something within the projections of the party committee and administration echelons of each province, and the Standing Committee of the Military Region Party Committee and the Military Region Command. We agree that in the process of implementing Resolution 10 of the Political Bureau, a number of localities, units, and rural families have an erroneous perception, some even agitated by wrongdoers, but most perceptions are generally good. Because Resolution 10 has truly entered daily life, and fits the aspirations of most farmers, it has effectively stimulated production development, the lives of the people have been improved, and social assets have risen. A number of locations suffered only temporary "tumult" and the rural situation in the delta is stabilizing and tending toward good development. That is a firm



"foundation," comprising economic, political and social aspects, for promotion of every aspect, including the local military task. Also precisely because of this, in the face of the heated situation, we are concerned but not unhappy. In the preparations for this 1989 phase one conscription, the first period was truly fragmented but party committee and administrative echelons at all levels promptly rectified the situation. The provinces have now reported that the physical examinations and political reviews are completed. Districts, wards, and villages in the military region are conducting a final reexamination in preparation for issuing the conscription order after the lunar new year."

"The experience of our military region during the past 7 years of implementing the military obligation law is that we cannot be complacent or neglectful in leadership, supervision and achievement organization in conscription, whether the quantity norms are great or small, or the troop delivery times are fast or slow. This lesson has been clearly proven in Tien Giang Province, a province with fairly outstanding local military work but not a few difficulties, that almost failed to meet its quantity norms during phase one of 1988. If you have the time, I invite you to visit Tien Giang for additional study."

**Navy Changes Training Procedures**  
42090552a Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN  
in Vietnamese 14 Feb 89 p 2

[Article by To Hai Nam: "What's New in the 1989 Supervision of Naval Training"]

[Text] During 1988, the entire naval branch had to maintain a high state of combat readiness, especially after the 14 March incident at Sinh Ton Atoll of Truong Sa Archipelago [Spratly Islands]. Branch training had to swiftly and promptly shift course for each force and unit protecting vital areas such as groups S2, B2, B9, KV4, etc., and to immediately supervise reorientation of technician and recruit training in training centers to promptly reinforce units engaged in the combat mission. Although a series of tasks had to be developed simultaneously in the mission to protect our maritime sovereignty, the entire branch completed the training plan for the year on 30 November 1988. The branch attained 90 to 95 percent of the plan; 92 to 100 percent of the allotted curriculum time was attained; and 90 to 95 percent of the men were trained, inspected and tested. In training at the campaign level alone, the branch joined coastal regions and units in holding 18 live exercises, and at the tactical level to organize 407 live training exercises with the use of weapons. These are record figures for the past 3 years. Therefore, the levels of command organization of cadres and of technical training of the men in ship, island, rapid mobility, etc. groups have met combat and combat readiness requirements in the protection of maritime sovereignty. However, because the reorientation was urgent and simultaneous, and training had to be conducted in many tactical forms and with many types

of weapons, many weaknesses were also revealed, especially in joint tactical training between forces and the use of new weapons, so some units such as PKT [expansion unknown] allowed lapses of safety to occur during training involving weapons and personnel.

During 1989, to fulfill the mission of protecting our maritime sovereignty, all conferences, from the military administration conferences of our branch to the conferences of political, technical, rear services, training, etc. sectors, must concentrate on discussions on raising the quality of combat training. A discussion of the 1989 training of the naval branch has presented two new problems:

**Unit Allotted Time Base, Curriculum Training Concentration Still Weak**

For nearly the past 10 years, the training each year of the navy has been conducted in turn from areas 1 to 4, and formulation of the branch training plan has had to be approved to the region and directly subordinate brigade levels.

During 1989, the training guideline of the branch is not to train in the order of the four areas but to use the combat mission and methods of each unit in each location as the primary requirement and curriculum. The branch will approve the training plans of each of its major groups.

Captain Nguyen Duyen, Commander of Naval Training, has stated that the time required to formulate and approve plans is specifically stipulated and 1 March 1989 is still the standard date for issuing training orders but in reality, due to urgent mission requirements, 60 percent of the key units began immediately on 1 January 1989 with training in subjects for which the units were still weak. The branch has stipulated only the minimum time in accordance with training quality requirements during the year, not specific amounts of time for each subject but assigning a mission to each unit, based on equipment, weapons and mission situation, to set the time needed for each topic; and depending on the weather and terrain, to decide the training by periods or spread throughout the year. Any unit failing to meet quality norms in accordance with combat requirements will be permitted by the branch to continue training (or skill retraining), not depending on the stipulated time. From this renovation, the command and staff agencies of units have actively formulated the training plans for their units—with each individual, ship, squadron and force finding the subjects in which their unit is still weak in order to concentrate training in ensuring during a short time that the unit has sufficient strength to complete its combat mission.

**Using Practice as the Primary Element**

From the combat experience gained in the southwestern sea during 1979 and the results attained during 10 years of training by ship, coastal, island, etc. forces, the training conference of the branch at the beginning of 1989

asserted that theoretical training must be closely coordinated with practice but 70 percent of the time must be reserved for practice with absolutely strict testing. Any subject completed must immediately have its contents inspected, including the live firing of all types of weapons. Training should resolutely not be permitted in order to pursue achievement but instead should be a requirement to truly connect realism with available equipment and weapons, the responsible area, and tactical objective. For example, in ship's weapons training, if a gunner is not yet skilled at his position, joint training cannot be conducted within the gun crew, and if a gun crew is unskilled, joint training cannot be conducted for the entire ship. In this allocation of time, if the entire ship achieves good quality in joint fire practice, the branch will permit the ship to eliminate periods of individual, sector and ship training and to immediately hold training in squadron formation. The review, inspection and evaluation of organization and command standards of cadres at all levels; technical skill, mission practice and responsibility standards of each sailor, ship, force, etc., is assigned to the commander of each unit for self-evaluating his own unit to ensure that the requirements of training are met, raising the substance and combat capability of the men.

From the two problems presented above, the navy's 1989 training task has been partially renovated and has stimulated a spirit of dedication and creativity among the cadres and men in the branch. At the same time, echelons, sectors and units in the branch unanimously agree on the viewpoint that not because of high combat readiness but through small, fundamental, total and firm themes, the training task must achieve the three adherences (adhere to mission and tactical objective; adhere to the ship and the available equipment; and adhere to the coastal area and force for which one is responsible), and actively engage in training under all possible conditions, including the times the ship is in port or at anchor or when at sea on a mission. In achieving this spirit of renovation, in only the first 2 weeks of January 1989, in many units such as B1, B2, B7, T1, N5, S1, S2, etc., ships leaving port have coordinated to hold immediate training in still weak subjects and have initially attained effective results, answering the missions of combat readiness to protect maritime sovereignty.

#### **Hanoi's 1989 Military Induction Criticized**

42090212A Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN  
in Vietnamese 21 Feb 89 pp 1, 4

[Article by Dao Van Su: "Military Induction Work in Hanoi in 1989: There Are Sufficient Numbers of Youths Ready To Enlist, But the Preparatory Steps Are Uncoordinated and Efficiency Is Too Low"]

[Text] According to a directive of the General Staff, this year the first national troop recruitment period will be between 20 February and 20 March. In the Capital Military Region, 3 weeks before the recruit delivery day there are sufficient numbers of youths ready to enlist.

However, in carrying out investigations in 16 wards, districts, and cities during a 1-week period, between the time when the youths were called up for preinduction physicals and the time when they were issued notices that they had been selected to fulfill their military obligations on active duty, we noted that the preparatory steps in calling up youths for active duty were carried out in an uncoordinated manner and with low efficiency. In many wards which for many years had been leading flags in the military region with regard to local military work and the induction of youths (such as Hai Ba Trung and Dong Da wards), the ratio of youths going to the physical examination stations was also very low. In Hai Ba Trung Ward the ratio was 30.8 percent and in Dong Da Ward it was 53.7 percent. In some basic units, such as Hoang Van Thu village (Thanh Tri District), Song Phuong village (Hoai Duc District), and Ba Vi village (Ba Vi District) the ratios were only 9 to 10 percent.

Why? Two months ago (20 December 1988), nearly all party committees and people's committees of the wards, districts, and cities heard the military organ report that the missions and plan of the Municipal Military Draft Council concerning the induction of youths, and the leadership and guidance work, had been disseminated down to the basic level. But in fact, in some places the plan of the Military Draft Council has not been disseminated to the party chapters or party organizations, but has remained with the party committees and a number of managing cadres. Some managing cadres who recently failed to be elected to the party committee have neglected their responsibility and the newly appointed cadres did not begin their work immediately and their experience in leading and guiding that work is limited. A rather large number of cadres and party members have regarded lightly, and not participated in, propagandizing and encouraging youths to enlist. The participation of the organs and departments has been uncoordinated and they have not fulfilled their responsibilities. A rather widespread situation has been failure to firmly "grasp" the forces and the overlooking of youths who are studying trades or are working on a temporary contract in factories and enterprises, graduates of colleges, specialized middle schools, and general middle schools who have not yet accepted employment, the children of cadres, workers, and civil servants living in the government collective housing areas, etc.

The developments during the first week of the preinduction physicals reflected poor prospects for the current induction cycle. When it learned of them, on 5 January the Municipal Military Draft Council issued a notice, on 11 January the standing committee of the Municipal Party Committee set an official message, on 13 January the Municipal People's Committee issued a directive, etc. All of those documents concentrated on strengthening the leadership and guidance of the work of calling up youths for active duty and requested the local party committees and governmental administrations to regard it as an important mission. Meanwhile, the military

region command sent cadres to the weak bases to provide guidance. Comrade Le Xuan Tuy, head of the military region mobilization organization office, personally went to Hai Ba Trung Ward, along with four ward inspection teams, to propagandize and educate and also to inspect forces, review exemptions or delays, and correct and gain experience from the deficiencies at the basic level. In cases of youths who were working as temporary contract workers and were afraid of losing their jobs, the inspection teams interceded with the factories, which pledged to reemploy them after they returned from active duty. The results after one week were that the ratios of youths going to physical examination stations were 69.78 percent in Ha Ba Trung Ward and 89.7 percent in Dong Da Ward. The unit with the highest ratio in the military region was Son Tay, with 98.9 percent.

The wards and districts of the capital have recovered their "deportment" and have learned another lesson about leadership and guidance: they can never be subjective and regard lightly the task of inducting youths, whether the numerical quota is large or small.

At present, the number of youths ready to enlist is sufficient, but if the party committees, governmental administrations, departments, and mass organizations do not positively coordinate in doing a good job of propagandizing and educating youths, it is not certain that all of the youths who have received draft notices will be present, at the prescribed time, on the coming recruit delivery day. It is also necessary to add that recently the army's rear services work in the capital has not received adequate attention. If that task does not receive attention, it will be difficult for propaganda and education to attain the desired results.

#### **Military Region 9 Promotes National Defense, Economic Efforts**

42090225 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese  
10 Apr 89 p 3

[Article by Bui Dinh Nguyen: "Military Region 9 Coordinates National Defense with the Economy; Many Products Made, More Than 4 Billion Dong Earned During 1988"]

#### **[Text] Two Effective Working Methods**

Military Region 9 has set forth an overall and multifaceted plan in increasing production and engaging in economic work by two methods:

First is to form a force engaged in concentrated economic work, comprising 17 units, enterprises, state farms and state forests specializing in economic work in accordance with a mechanism of state-operated enterprise, total accounting, self-ensuring living conditions and accumulating investment capital while simultaneously deducting profits to regulate general payment for the military region's national defense requirements. By

this economic model, with the enthusiasm, initiative, and creativity of independent economic facilities, the military region has produced many valuable products according to plan norms; producing 12,000 tons of cement and 8 million bricks and tiles, and exploiting 100 tons of sheet metal, 1,530 cubic meters of lumber and 60 tons of nails to support construction of 26,000 square meters of projects and 10,000 square meters of housing. Moreover, it also produced 45,000 coconut fiber rugs for export, and provided more than 7 million ton-kilometers in transportation service. After total accounting, profits came to 1.4 billion dong and enterprise, state farm and state forest facilities deducted 418 million dong for payment to the military region. With this profit, the military region imported 352 sets of vehicle tire tubes, 175 tons of fuel, 80 tons of iron and steel, 5 IFA vehicles, and 1 Uoat vehicle to support national defense. At the same time, it used 195 million dong in a project to rebuild the military region headquarters, 60 million dong to construct barracks for a number of combat units, and 216 million dong to assist in alleviating the difficulties of welfare recipients.

Second is to organize the agencies and units of standing forces to increase agriculture production around camps, to coordinate with concentrated production on a small and medium scale appropriate for the surroundings of each agency and unit, and to associate with local areas and nearby units aimed at creating a source of fresh food to maintain and improve the living conditions of the troops at a time in which sources of supply following state norms are not being met according to plan. Facilities engaged in this agricultural production also conduct self-accounting, using receipts to compensate for expenses, accumulate funds and make payments with no compensation for losses by the military region.

This form produced many effective results. In farming, the military region harvested 4,700 tons of grain in paddy equivalent, 140 percent of planned norms, 1,146 tons of vegetables and fruit, 575 tons of sugarcane, 24,000 coconuts for oil, planted 141 hectares in forest and gathered 2,000 stere of firewood. The military region raised 4,000 animals and a poultry flock of 54,000 birds and produced 370 tons of meat, 645 tons of fish, 800,000 liters of fish sauce and more than 1,000 tons of salt. The total value of on-site agricultural production (summarizing only 25 of the 43 centers directly subordinate to the military region) according to current prices at the end of 1988 was 2,782,000,000 dong. Thus, added to the profits made by enterprises, state farms and state forests engaged in concentrated production as noted above, Military Region 9 last year earned 4,182,000,000 dong to spend on national defense requirements.

Lt. Gen. Nguyen Trong Xuyen, Vice Minister of National Defense and Chief of the Rear Services General Department, visited the production facilities, made an on-site evaluation, and confirmed that Military Region 9 is one of the army units engaged in economic work at a suitable level, precisely in accordance with guidance



from the Ministry of National Defense, consistent with the three major economic programs of the state, and with firm organization and great results.

Maj. Gen. Cao Van Dom, Chief of the Military Region Rear Services Department, informed us that the distribution and use of troop labor results were as follows: first of all, to compensate for food shortages because, due to difficulties and problems, local area supply has failed to meet state plan norms for distribution to the military region. During 1988, the military region received only 20 to 25 percent of the food ration for troops within the country and 40 to 45 percent for forces engaged in international obligations. Thanks primarily to the results of this production, this slippage was promptly compensated for to gradually overcome difficulties in the lives of the troops. The military region used 833 million dong, equal to 20 percent of the total profits, to provide meals for the troops. Moreover, 30 percent was used for expanded reproduction, 32 percent for capital construction and repair of barracks, vehicle and artillery sheds and warehouses, and upgrading of hospitals and dispensaries, 6.5 percent for maintenance supplies and replacement equipment, 7 percent as a liquid assets fund, and 4.5 percent for welfare support, bonuses and labor protection.

#### Effective Lessons

From the results of Military Region 9 and a number of other units attaining fairly good results such as Military Region 1, Military Region 3, Engineer Group N., the Central Highlands Corps (binh doan) and the 12th Corps, in an armywide production and economic work conference, there were a number of points of significant effectiveness in further developing results on this front:

—It is unnecessary now to argue whether the army should engage in economic work or not but primarily on how to produce effective results. First of all, it is necessary to take the initiative, daring to think and to work following new thoughts. Commanders must boldly work and take responsibility and must be dynamic and creative with accurate calculation and planning in economic work with demands as high as during combat.

—The army can rationally use part of its forces, a portion of machine and equipment capacity and a fixed amount of time to engage in production and economic work, so it must have a thorough understanding of Resolution 02 of the Political Bureau on achieving close coordination and intimate attachment between the economy and national defense. Skillfully coordinate production forces with the area defense mission, simultaneously engaging in combat readiness training, production, stock raising, and farming. Operate as Tien Giang Province has, simultaneously engaging in production with a profit of more than 200 million dong, in raising combat strength and troop

discipline, and in successfully protecting the area where units are stationed, joining other forces to maintain political security and social safety in the local area.

—Joint enterprise and association with sectors and local areas in business production must be expanded while at the same time boldly accepting state investment to accept and operate medium and large-scale projects with high economic efficiency.

—Properly ensure the overall course and plan of the army and the three major economic programs of the state precisely in accordance with state law and army discipline. These results must be attained on a dynamic and creative basis with mobilization of grey matter in scientific calculation, not through manipulative trading to benefit from price differences or through illegal activities; reducing the time, equipment, fuel and supplies reserved for combat readiness training to invest in earning profits; or operating in a style of "military labor is like river water," "the deaf fear no guns," or false profits and true losses.

—For the economic work forces of the army to awaken their potential and turn policy and determination into assets, materials and commodities for society, responsible agencies must have a mechanism and policy consistent with overall renovation to stimulate and encourage laborers. Legal decisions consistent with the characteristics of armed forces engaged in economic work are needed, replacing those mechanisms and policies that are no longer consistent.

#### Long An Economic-Defense Units Demand Justice

42090207 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN  
in Vietnamese 13 Mar 89 p 2

[Article by Phuc Nguyen: "Economic-National Defense Units of Long An Demand Justice By Guaranteeing Their Political Rights and the Regulations and Policies Regarding Military Personnel"]

[Text] The newspaper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN has introduced experiences in organizing economic-national defense units to clear the Dong Thap Muoi area of Long An. A number of provinces, such as Tien Giang, Dong Nai, Tay Ninh, and Song Be have organized and will organize similar economic construction units. In Long An Province, at present, in addition to the province's five economic-national defense units (totalling about 8,000 troops), there are some district units. In fact, since 1983 it has been affirmed that that is one of the creative working methods of the locality to bring young workers of military obligation age into the province's program to clear the Dong Thap Muoi area, achieve social justice in implementing the Military Obligation Law, and organize leading-edge labor forces that are tightly organized and highly disciplined, which simultaneously participate in production labor, undergo military training, and develop

Dong Thap Muoi into an area with strategic significance with regard to economics and national defense. The "Dong Thap" economic-national defense units are combined production units which do their own economic accounting. In addition to their primary mission—clearing wasteland, building up the fields, and preparing in all ways to bring in people to develop the potential of Dong Thap Muoi—they also participate in agricultural production, grow industrial crops, produce bricks and tiles, repair machinery, and process food. The existing property of each unit amounts to hundreds of millions of dong. The units balance their income and expenditures, and are not subsidized by the state budget.

At the beginning of this year, after resuming our investigation of the experiences of Long An Province in organizing the economic-national defense units we found that that working method was clearly effective economically. Since 1983, the Dong Thap units, along with the people of Dong Thap Muoi, have transformed 30,000 hectares of one-crop rice land into two-crop land with high yields. The units have cleared 20,000 hectares of land and turned over 10,000 hectares to settler households totalling 14,000 people. In addition to expanding the cultivated land in Dong Thap Muoi and building transportation and service projects, five additional villages have been set up and preparations have been made to create a new town and a new district. The greatest significance of that undertaking, as comrade Tran Ngoc Nhom, vice chairman of the Long An People's Committee told us, has been to provide livelihoods for tens of thousands of youths. According to statistical data, every year, of the approximately 40,000 youths of military obligation age, about 10,000 are fully qualified to enlist. The Dong Thap economic-national defense units afford a good environment in which youths can fulfill their obligation of building and defending the homeland, participate in labor and military training, work, study, and learn trades. After fulfilling their labor obligations in the Dong Thap units, many youths have volunteered to settle in Dong Thap Muoi.

However, because Long An was the first province in the nation to set up economic-national defense units, based on temporary regulations of the province, in the organization and development process there are many points which must continue to be perfected. At present, those units do not yet do economic work. The Long An military command is only responsible for sending some officers on special detail to serve as unit cadres and assume responsibility for the party-political work in the units. Those officers are paid salaries in accordance with the common regulations. The units are not commanded by officers. The enlisted men do not wear military insignia and are not assigned military rank. Except for the officers who are attached to the provincial military command, the unit cadres and unit members do not receive the benefits based on the regulations and policies regarding military personnel. When unit members are ill or injured they cannot be treated in army hospitals (because they do not have military serial numbers) and

the civilian hospitals also refuse to accept them, for they think that they are regular troops doing economic work. Something that affects the feelings, sentiments, and thoughts of most of the unit members is that even those who are injured or lose their lives in the course of labor (in many cases because they set off mines while driving tractors) they are not regarded as wounded soldiers or war dead and do not receive the stipulated benefits. After fulfilling their obligations in the economic-national defense units, the unit members do not receive priority benefits, as do military personnel who fulfill their active duty obligations, and do not receive priority in employment, study, international cooperative labor, etc.

Thus, in a specific sense, there are still differences between the army units and the economic-national defense units. Even during the phase of selection based on political, health, educational, and other standards, the youths participating in the economic-national defense units, because of poor propaganda work, feel that they are "second-class troops" who have been sent to do reform labor. Concern by the sectors, echelons, and mass organizations for the economic-national defense units is not yet adequate and there has been failure to create attention and concern by society as a whole for the Dong Thap units. They nominally "join the army," but when they are outside the camp and visit their families they wear civilian clothes, without rank or insignia. Political-ideological education and military training in the economic-national defense units are regarded lightly. The discipline management and troop management levels of the production unit cadres do not meet the requirements because they are not trained and they do not have a strong sense of responsibility.

Because they are units which do their own accounting, in general the Dong Thap economic-national defense units have taken care of the economic rights of the cadres and unit members, but have not yet been able to take care of their political rights. Especially, they have found it very difficult to apply the current regulations and policies regarding the army. The provincial party committee, the People's Committee, and the Long An military organ have many times recommended to the upper echelons that they provide guidance in organizing and building the economic-national defense units and regard them as troops doing local economic work, and that the localities assume responsibility for satisfying all standards and regulations, in accordance with the common policies. Military Region 7 and the provincial military organ intend to intensify the military training and political education programs for those units, and ensure that when they complete their service their members may transfer to the Class I reserve category. At present, in the military obligation law and its subsidiary documents, there are no articles and clauses regarding the obligation to serve in the economic-national defense units, such as the Dong Thap units. Long An would like to have the support and assistance of the echelons in rapidly resolving the difficulties in the organization work and in

ensuring the rights and benefits of the cadres and enlisted men fulfilling the economic development-national defense obligation in the locality

Long An's working method manifests the dynamism and creativity of the basic level, arising from the actual needs of the basic level. Many aspects of that working method must be studied more carefully and further perfected. It is hoped that the functional organs will soon begin to study the model afforded by Long An's economic-national defense units and quickly advise the Ministry of National Defense and the state to draft a document giving over-all guidance, to enable the development of the economic-national defense units to proceed in the right direction. Many cadres in Long An Province and the Dong Thap units have complained that many delegations have come to commend their good working method, but Long An's requests vis-a-vis giving the economic-national defense units the same political rights, regulations, standards, and policies as the army units have not been answered.

## ECONOMIC

**Minister of Interior Visits Ho Chi Minh City**  
42090193 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG  
8 Mar 89 pp 1, 3

[Unattributed article: "Comrade Mai Chi Tho Pays Working Visit to Ho Chi Minh City"]

[Text] Recently, Comrade Mai Chi Tho, Member of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee and Minister of Interior, traveled to Ho Chi Minh City to visit and work with several basic units and party committee echelons in the 3rd and 5th Precincts and Binh Thanh Ward, and afterwards to work with the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee.

In his remarks during work with the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee, Mai Chi Tho emphasized the city's economic development situation with many views on the course of the city's external economic development and a number of issues of ideological comprehension.

His evaluation was that the city's situation during the recent past, especially since the lunar new year, has changed fairly rapidly with good and dynamic development and bustling life in the precincts. This development is pleasing the people, cadres, and workers, and public servants more clearly recognize the way out and confidence in the party is stronger. However, a prominent point is that the development of trade and service is stronger than that of production. This situation is extremely worthy of contemplation. Mai Chi Tho said that prior to the domestic investment law, many problems requiring solution existed in production. If not resolved, allowing production to stimulate development, the development of trade and service will be indirectly stimulated, including trade across the border. Avenues

opening for production are still unbalanced when compared with those for trade and service. Gold will flow to the outside. A number of aspects are worthy of attention such as nonselective importation of commodities, and still no suitable duty policy to protect domestically produced goods or the need to impose higher duties on luxuries and limit importation of nonessential goods. More concentration is needed in production development, including state-operated cooperative and private production, to create favorable conditions for attracting private investment in production.

Mai Chi Tho gave several views on the issue of external economy. He observed that external trade activities have begun but due to the many aspects of the general situation, investment from foreign countries has given attention only to things providing a quick turnaround, such as tourism service and trade, except for the exploitation of petroleum which is still at a low level. Consequently, production investment is not great or opened to a great extent and must be to a greater level. However, in operations with the outside, there have also been many weaknesses due to our management level. While in contact with foreign capitalists, the issues beneficial to production and building the nation must be clearly recognized. We have not trained cadres in international and foreign trade, especially with capitalist countries, except for a few trained primarily for working with socialist countries. We are also still giving little concern to international law. There is a need for a thorough understanding of international law to assist in signing operational agreements with foreign countries. Our information on prices is also extremely slow, even to the point that we sign agreements while unaware of prices on the international market and therefore usually suffer losses. At times, many of our organizations engaged in foreign economic trade have not been unified in price struggles with customers, such as the still extremely inexpensive rental prices of housing and land for foreigners due to competition. We also have weaknesses in the management of foreigners, previously too strict, with many aspects that are still strict but many that are lax. When individuals engaged in tourism are interviewed by the press, they say that tourism cadres must know how to dine and entertain and if they do not stay at first class hotels while in a foreign country, only the second-rate tourism companies will come to them. Such a statement is lax. Foreigners do not base considerations on external appearance or whether one stays in first class. The main thing is whether one seeks an understanding of his capabilities and when bringing in tourists, whether there is an understanding of tourism conditions. They constantly "sail with the wind." From this observation, Mai Chi Tho said that the issue is not knowing how to dine and entertain but how to operate, and increasingly not to engage in degenerate dining and entertaining.

Also concerning the comprehension aspect, Mai Chi Tho recalled a number of issues for attention when comparing Vietnam with the four Asian dragons. True, we have made mistakes and even serious ones. However, one



must clearly recognize that our country has experienced several decades of war and, during the past 14 years, continued war. Our assistance to the Cambodian people to eliminate Pol Pot genocide is right. However, imperialists and reactionaries have joined satellite countries in applying economic pressure and blockade on us for a period of more than the past 10 years. Meanwhile, the "dragon" countries have had at least 36 years of peace, such as South Korea.

The comrade confirmed that everyone is anxiously hoping for the country to advance but must clearly recognize the conditions for advancement, and cannot make even or increasingly simple comparisons. We are proud that we have constantly defeated foreign aggressors and will surely not allow that pride to be lost. We have made mistakes but must recognize that the things we have now are great. Our great problem is a concentrated effort in seeking every means to achieve a compatible and rational peace in order to build the country.

The situation is developing favorably. The open economic policy of the party and state has been effective, creating confidence among the people. Soon, we will both continue our cooperation and open door policy with foreign countries and affirm that the situation is changing from armed confrontation to foreign relations while struggling under conditions of still unresolved problems in mutual peace and cooperation. Economic operations also require a struggle, especially involving price and market monopolies. The struggle in economic operations is a complex struggle. Class and ethnic struggles in the new trend have not disappeared but still exist under new forms in political, economic, cultural, and social fields. This problem must not be made dimmed.

In evaluating the new situation, Mai Chi Tho stated that many aspects are developing favorably but at the same time, many complexities and weaknesses exist. All cadres, party members and people must be made to clearly understand that the new development is pleasing. At the same time, they must recognize every weakness and complexity. Some people say that opening the door will let in a cool breeze but naturally also allow the flies to come in. Very true, but if we dare not open the door, the country cannot develop and cannot contribute toward the international division of labor. However, if flies come in, we must kill them, "clean up the environment," and overcome the weaknesses. We must stop the erroneous perception that our opening the door will only result in more perfect successes and limited losses. Classes must be held to train and raise the occupational levels of economic cadres on international law, international trade, price information, etc. Regulations on external economic management and tourism are necessary to continue opening the door but to better protect ourselves.

The comrade emphasized that the city's problem is still to seek every means to develop its strengths and to firmly cooperate with the area in mutual development. It must

seek every method to engage in contracts and association, to develop, and to resist individual action. A good model must be found. Comrade Mai Chi Tho also mentioned the need for ensuring order and security in the city in the new development situation. To strengthen the protection of order and security, it is necessary to educate, occupationally train, arm and sustain the public security forces to become a key staff force of the party organization and municipal people's committee able to supervise the fatherland security protection movement of all sectors and echelons, including that movement in populated areas and the counterespionage, secrecy preservation and internal protection movement of agencies, sectors, units and echelons; and to build powerful and pure public security forces. Party committee echelons and committees must better equip the public security forces with technical and transportation means, give extreme concern to the lives of the public security cadres and men, and continuously launch a movement of building good examples, initiate heated emulation to bolster models and examples of good people, good work, etc. The more conditions there are for expanding production and business, the more extreme care must be given to those laborers still without jobs and the families with few breadwinners, and to assisting children with studies and youths with employment. Continue to develop the assault youth forces, continue to construct schools for absorbing delinquent children in order to nurture, teach a trade and assist them in successful study and improvement. Those with serious crimes must be resolutely punished. For those with less serious crimes, every means must be sought for on-the-spot education and rehabilitation, to find jobs and study conditions, or to send them to the schools and camps the city has established for youths, women and the socially disabled.

#### Management Changes, 'Open Door' Efforts To Revive Economy

36200133 Hamburg DIE ZEIT in German  
24 Mar 89 pp 32, 33

[Article by Michael Sontheimer: "Socialist Land Tries Capitalism"]

[Text] The waitress in the little restaurant in Hanoi exchanged her purse for a basket, which she carries from table to table when she collects the checks. She has done so less for aesthetic than for practical considerations, because the bundles of money necessary to pay for a lunch would burst even the roomiest purse.

Inflation is galloping in the Peoples' Republic of Vietnam. No reliable data are available concerning the inflation rate, but estimates run at approximately 1,000 percent. In this area, Vietnam has succeeded in surpassing Argentina and Brazil; it is possible that at the present time Nicaragua is suffering from an even more rapid decline in its currency. The devaluation of the dong is just one of the indicators of the economic disaster Vietnam is confronting barely 15 years after the end of

the second Indochinese War. Insufficient food production, shortages of goods of all kinds, rising unemployment, and chronic lack of capital round out the dismal picture.

People can be seen on the roads, in the marketplaces, everywhere, counting money and sorting banknotes into thick bundles. The price of a kilogram of good beef has risen from 4,000 dong to 5,000 dong in 1 month. At the black market rate, that is the equivalent of 1 dollar, and that is approximately one-half of a middle-level State employee's monthly salary.

In addition to the country's currency, which is losing value at a rapid pace, three unofficial currencies have established themselves. A "555" brand English cigarette, which Ho Chi Minh preferred to smoke, is the equivalent of one U.S. dollar. The currency of "U.S. imperialism," which the Vietnamese drove out of the country, has remained, and it is playing a role of increased importance for the country. Not only must foreigners pay for nearly everything with *greenbacks*, the dollar is also the medium of exchange between Vietnamese engaged in larger transactions. Whoever wants to buy a house can do so only with dollars—or in gold, the third unofficial currency.

Whereas the rate of exchange at the National Bank in Hanoi was still fewer than 400 dong to the dollar at the end of last year, the black market rate had long since surpassed the rate of 5,000 dong. In the meantime, the country's currency had been drastically reduced on several occasions in order to achieve parity between the official rate and the black market rate. Today the official rate of exchange is 4,500 dong for a single dollar.

One decisive reason for this misery is the large state-run factories. These production units, which were long regarded as the epitome of a socialist economy, are still in operation today, in some cases with enormous deficits. What they lack in productivity, they more than compensate for in terms of bureaucracy. Nevertheless, they must still draw up profit and loss calculations in the meantime. What is particularly lacking is qualified management. After their victory over the Americans and their allies, preferential jobs in terms of the economy were given to war heroes. These veterans were hardly trained for their new civilian tasks, and in many cases, they failed miserably.

Whereas state-run factories absorb subsidies, the government has completely neglected to develop a system of taxation. To this day, there is neither an income tax nor a sales tax in Vietnam. In some instances, peoples' committees, that is to say, the communal government, establish taxes at the local level. The way is thus paved for arbitrariness, and the tax rate can usually be lowered to a considerable extent by bribery.

Civil servants earn so little that nearly every one of them has a second, or even a third job. The result is that some appear at their official jobs only sporadically. "I have a small construction firm on the side," says a structural engineer who is employed by the state. "Business is not doing badly, otherwise my family could not make it." What keeps the state employees from going hungry is their guaranteed rice rations. At a price that is below the free market price by a margin of several fold, each soldier is entitled to 21 kg per month, each laborer is entitled to 17, and each office worker is entitled to 15 kg.

#### Ominous Consequences of the War

Rice is, in fact, in short supply, and it is becoming increasingly more scarce. As recently as last year, Hanoi had to ask the United Nations for food aid. At the present time, the situation regarding supplies does not look any better, because typhoons struck Central Vietnam in the autumn and inundated large areas. After the repeal of collectivization in the 1980's, it was possible to increase the rice harvest, but these successes were literally eaten away immediately by the rapidly growing population. Even though propaganda is urging family planning and the small, two-child family, the population continues to grow at more than 2 percent per annum.

Luu Van Dat, the Director of the Foreign Trade Institute in Hanoi, lays the blame for present-day misery at the doorstep of history: "The French colonialists exploited Vietnam's resources for nearly 100 years, but they did nothing to develop the country." Concerning the second Indochinese war against the United States and its allies, Luu Van Dat says: "In the final analysis, we won, but we had to pay a terrible price. It is well known that the Americans wanted to bomb us back into the Stone Age. They did not succeed, but they devastated our country to an incredible degree."

Practically all major roads and rail lines in the country and the major portion of the few factories in the North lay in ruins. Of the nearly 15,000 villages, nearly two-thirds were destroyed or heavily damaged. In the war, which had been escalating since 1965, nearly 1.5 million civilians lost their lives. When it had finally ended on 30 April 1975, it left a destroyed society in its wake with more than 1 million widows and 800,000 orphans. "Once the Americans are vanquished," Ho Chi Minh wrote in his will in 1969, "we will build the country up to be 10 times more beautiful than it was before."

It was not as simple as that, even though all the requirements the Communists in Hanoi considered necessary for the development of the country had been met: The traditionally poor North, which was nevertheless rich in raw materials, had access to the South, with its fertile Mekong Delta, the country's rice bowl. In addition, with American support, not only had modern light industry been established in South Vietnam; the infrastructure in the South was markedly better than in the North.

Whereas Hanoi was initially aiming for a cautious integration of the South within a decade, the *hardliners*, who urged a rapid reunification out of fear of potential "counterrevolutionary resistance," prevailed. Tens of thousands of people were sent from the North into the South in order to accelerate the transformation of the society there into a socialistic one. Within a year, 70 percent of the light industry there was nationalized. Production fell off to less than 30 percent of the wartime level.

The war, which had lasted for 40 years with interruptions, had yet another ominous effect: A subsidizing mentality developed among the leaders in Hanoi, but also among the population at large. They saw themselves as the avant-garde of the Third World in its struggle against U.S. imperialism, and they regarded it as self-explanatory that they should be supported in their well-known war by enormous sums from China and the Soviet Union.

In Hanoi it was considered just as self-explanatory that following the victory, monies for the reconstruction of the country would pour in. Since Richard Nixon had promised 4.7 billion dollars in economic aid in a secret letter dated 1973, before the Paris accords were signed, the victorious Communists expected Washington to establish a kind of Marshall Plan for the benefit of the destroyed country. Instead, the United States imposed a trade embargo against Vietnam.

Due to the fact that these hopes for improved relations with the West had been dashed, Vietnam oriented itself more and more toward the Soviet Union. Within the Communist Party, the *hardliners* surrounding the dogmatic Truong Chinh, in a parallel development, were able to prevail, and the rapid collectivization of agriculture and the dismantling of private commerce in the South became realities. In March 1978, all private commercial dealings were banned—with disastrous results. Most of the predominantly Chinese merchants became boat people, commerce collapsed completely. Over-hasty collectivization led to shortages at harvest time. The South, which was to power the reconstruction of the entire country, had been sapped of its economic vigor. People began to go hungry.

Vietnam, which had long resisted establishing ties with Moscow that were too close, joined the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CEMA). The Soviet Union supports Vietnam to the present day with annual economic aid equal to approximately a billion dollars. Russian experts, who are by no means popular, can be seen throughout the entire country. They are called "poor Americans."

"We were always very much concerned about political independence," says an advisor of the Politburo, "but when we finally liberated the country, we had no ideas or experience regarding how to build it up. In the war, we learned how to fight, and nothing more."

When the Vietnamese Army marched into Cambodia on 25 December 1978, and the Khmer Rouge's reign of terror came to an end, the leaders in Hanoi were back to their old, familiar ways after 4 years of unaccustomed peace. At the present time, approximately 100,000 soldiers are still stationed in Cambodia, and more than 10,000 are stationed in Laos. The numbers of troops stationed along the border with China are much greater. Diplomats estimate that the Army gobbles between 35 and 50 percent of the national budget. The influx of troops into Cambodia had the additional effect of isolating Vietnam internationally: As long as the Vietnamese troops have not totally withdrawn from neighboring Cambodia, there will be no credits from the West (with the exception of Sweden), and no developmental aid. The ASEAN countries also imposed a trade embargo in 1979.

Even though the country was flat on its back in economic terms by 1978, it was not until the sixth party conference in December 1986 that the required radical change in course was decided upon. Since then, everything is supposed to change. The magic word is "doi moi," renewal. The problem with this Vietnamese appendage to Perestroika is that the cadre often do not know exactly what the radical renewal should be like in concrete terms. "The party's decisions are there," says the theoretical economist Le Dang Doanh. "It is much more difficult to transform them to practice quickly."

At number 242 Bin Thoi Street in Ho Chi Minh City, a woman in a blue uniform sits next to the open gate of a factory courtyard. In the streets of Cholon, the traditionally Chinese neighborhood, busy activity is the rule, but here it seems to be just a bit more active. Frozen Food Export Factory Number 1 is one of the few state-run plants in the country that is successful. Young women stand at long tables in several large rooms. Using long knives, they cut fish of all kinds, others gut squid or shell large shrimp. They stand at these tables 48 hours per week, but the wages are good. "We make at least 50,000 dong per month," one woman worker says, "and with the agreement, some can even make 100,000."

More than four-fifths of the nearly 3,000 employees of the fish factory, with its total of 15 branches, are women. The director is a man. "I have been working here for more than 25 years," says Nguyen Thanh Hung. "I used to be the owner and boss, now I am the director," he says. "It is not much of a difference. Most of the workers stayed after liberation. I used to be able to make decisions concerning hiring and firing, now I have to ask the unions. Everything has become more bureaucratic."

The alert man in his mid-70's wears athletic shoes, and the way he quickly glances at a few papers, signs them, and gives a few instructions to the worker who brought them in, he seems to be the embodiment of concentration and efficiency. Hung wanted to go into retirement on several occasions, but time and again, the Cholon Peoples' Committee respectfully asked him to continue working for a little while longer.



His motto is: "We must strike a balance between socialistic and capitalistic management." In practice, however, the recipe for this mixture has not yet been arrived at. "There are still many problems with the government," he complains, "even if it is improving slowly." Old-style socialism, in which the party and the state control everything, is largely shunted aside—in theory. The party's leading thinkers have accepted the fact for the time being that the requirements for a socialist society are simply not met in an underdeveloped agrarian country like Vietnam. "Where are the proletariat and the developed forces of production here?" Le Dang Doanh, the Director of the Institute for Economic Management asks. "You can look for them with a magnifying glass. We have been treating Socialism as a dogma, or as something holy for too long," he admits.

"Whoever works hard should also have some return for it," demands an advisor to the Politburo. "We used to think like children, that under socialism, everyone had to be equal. Everyone would receive the same things, whether he really worked or not. The result of this egalitarianism was neither capitalism nor socialism. It was nothing."

The new course is clearly oriented toward the West. "We even want to build up a capitalistic sector," Le Dang Doanh says. "And that is not a change in tactics; rather, it is a long-term strategy." He said in future, the government will try to control less by means of central planning, and more by means of taxation, monetary, interest, and pricing policies. "We allow the market mechanism room, and there is competition." Thus, just a short time ago, there were still restrictions on private firms which limited them to employing a maximum of 30 workers. Such restrictions were lifted.

By no means does that signify that entrepreneurs can act as they like. "Someone is always looking over your shoulder," complained Pham Chanh Duong, the Director of the trading firm Cholimes. "We must constantly file reports with the Finance Commission and the Planning Commission of the District Peoples' Committee. We are not even allowed to turn to higher levels of government."

Cholimes, Cholon Import and Export, which has Chanh Duong at its head, was founded in 1981, for the most part as a result of private investment, most of which came from the Chinese. "They have connections throughout the world, and they are simply outstanding businesspeople," says Director Duong. Whether the firm's success in itself was suspicious is unclear, in any case, in 1984 a delegation arrived from the Ministry of Finance in Hanoi. The examiners looked at the books for more than 3 months, and they noticeably disrupted operations. They did not detect the irregularities they had suspected, but of the four trading companies that had been founded under Cholimes's roof up to that time, three were closed.

The greatest obstacle Cholimes faces at the present time—and this is true for the entire Vietnamese economy—is the lack of capital. The National Bank gives no credits. It does check to make certain that the funds allocated to state-run plants are correctly accounted for. To date there is no banking system, not even so much as a set of laws by which a banking system could be organized.

In view of the chronic lack of capital, the best hope is pinned to the law concerning foreign investment, which was passed by the National Assembly at the end of 1987, and with the aid of which it is hoped that capitalists will be lured to the country. The law offers favorable conditions, for the most part, more favorable ones than the other countries of Southeast Asia. Thus, in Vietnam, firms are permitted to operate without domestic participation, mixed companies can take advantage of a tax-free status for a period of 2 years, and profits can be moved outside the country.

#### 'Asia's Prussians'

The opening of the isolated country is supposed to achieve Doi Moi. Under the motto "Coi Mo," open door, more than 600 delegations from foreign firms were able to test the waters. As everywhere else in Southeast Asia, the Japanese were dominant, but the East Asian Association from Hamburg is just now opening a representative office in Hanoi for 19 German firms from the most varied industries.

To date, only 25 projects have been concluded. "Lacking infrastructure, not only in transport, but also in the field of communications, is a point that frightens foreign firms away," says Luu Van Dat, the Director of the Institute for Foreign Trade. "But we have a well-trained workforce." It is somewhat absurd how Vietnam offers its inexpensive labor force for arbitrary exploitation to its one-time bitter capitalistic class enemy in the guise of U.S. imperialism. In this regard, the men who campaign for investments and cooperation are quite correct. The Vietnamese have a very high—and for such a poor Third World country—totally atypical, level of education. There are scarcely any illiterates, and the "Prussians of Asia," as they are sometimes called, are well known for their ability to work hard and in a disciplined way.

"We are living in a region that has experienced a great upsurge. Why should we always remain behind?" asked an economic planner in Hanoi. "Just look at your own countries to see how successful many of our compatriots have been in the United States, Canada, or France in just a few years."

Thus, the dream of a new tiger is being dreamed in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, a dream that after Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand, Vietnam can also leap into the Industrial Age. Le Dang Doanh, the theoretician, on the other hand, does not

want to hear anything about any leaps. "We have been following a zig-zag course, and we have suffered major setbacks, but now things will improve slowly—they can hardly get any worse."

**Ho Chi Minh City 1988 Marine Product Exports**  
42090224a Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese  
3 Apr 89 p 2

[Article by Tran Quoc Khai: "Ho Chi Minh City Marine Products Sector Harvests 27,070 Tons of Export Products, Collects 21 Million Dollars"]

[Text] During 1988, the marine products sector of Ho Chi Minh City encountered many difficulties in business production, especially shortages of capital, supplies and raw materials. The entire sector's liquid assets amounted to 2.9 billion dong, while the capital required for production was 4 billion dong. The bank no longer issued capital but shifted to a form of loans, resulting in untimely transfers to many production facilities. Taxes rose from 5 to 10 percent, electricity and water costs increased by three to five times, and prices for supplies, gasoline and oil also rose and were unstable. During 1988, the entire sector achieved a gross output value of 397 million dong, including 253 million dong through state operations, 102 percent of the planned level; harvested 27,070 tons of marine products of all kinds (3,728 tons of shrimp alone); and produced 21 million liters of fish sauce, achieving the planned level with a 1 million liter increase over 1987. The total export value attained was 21 million dollars, with state operations alone achieving 198 percent of planned levels, and the profit earned by the entire sector was 292 million dong. State operation collections amounted to 320 million dong.

**Reasons for Power Shortages in Hanoi**  
42090206 Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese  
16 Mar 89 pp 1, 4

[Article by Do Cat: "Why Is Hanoi Still Suffering Power Shortages?"]

[Text] On 31 December 1988, turbine 1 at the Hoa Binh hydroelectric plant, which has a capacity of 240,000 kw, began generating electricity as part of the power network. This increased the sources of electricity. Hanoi's carrier and distribution network now has the capability to receive new sources of electricity. Since then, Hanoi's electricity has been increased, but there is still something inexplicable, that is, Hanoi has continued to experience power outages.

We have tried to find reasons for this so that readers can study this, too.

**Can We Really Rest Assured Now?**

At the beginning of this year, turbine 1 generated 170-180,000 kw of electricity and increased the generating capacity of the northern electrical network to 750-800,000 kw, which is sufficient to meet peak-period demand. This was clearly manifested during the recent Tet holidays. However, the capacity and output ratio of the northern electricity sources is only 24-25 percent of the source structure. In this, hydroelectricity accounts for less than 50 percent. From this, it can be seen that even with Hoa Binh turbine 1, the northern power sources are still inflexible operating sources (the ability to adjust the sources still depends too much on thermal power). Because of this, there is no basis for saying that the sources have been stabilized and can provide electricity to the northern region 24 hours a day.

According to a directive of the Ministry of Power, Hanoi must be provided with electricity 24 hours a day. But this accounts for 30-35 percent of the north's output and capacity. Because of this, it is very difficult to keep power stable. After turbine 2 goes into operation, will there be stability? According to the state plan, the Hoa Binh hydroelectric plant will put turbine 2 into operation around the end of this year. The total capacity of the northern power sources will then be approximately 1 million kw, of which hydroelectric power will account for a higher percentage. It is estimated that demand will be 850,000 kw. Power will be more stable, but there will still be reason for concern. The northern region's power sources have been improved this year, but there is still little confidence. It will not be until turbine 3 goes into operation at the end of 1990 that we can rest easier.

**Power Shortages Because of Technical Reasons**

Why are there still power shortages today? There are several fundamental reasons for this. One is that turbine 1 was shut down for inspection after 72 hours. Today, Hanoi uses power day and night. But the situation is now very uncertain. The power sector has cut power to the urban area in order to regulate the frequency, which makes us wonder, When will we have electricity 24 hours a day?

Although that was very temporary, there have been other outages when hooking up the projects to improve the electrical network. The city is now striving to put the stations and low-voltage lines into operation. There have been weeks when the Power Service has put 10-12 transformer stations into operation throughout the city. As a result, there have been power outages. But what is worrisome are the outages due to problems. When the amount of electrical power increased, the consumption capacity of the people increased greatly. Prior to putting turbine 1 into operation, the city consumed 1.8-2.2 million kwh of electricity. After turbine 1 was put into operation, usage increased an average of 30-40 percent and then suddenly 60 percent. Because of this, in some zones, the old distribution network was damaged and

had to be repaired. Since February, there have been more outages for the above reasons. We suggest that the Power Service find a way to inform the people about this, especially those living in areas where there will be outages.

The people of Hanoi used to be very understanding, reasonable, fair, and loyal. We understood that the electricians were striving to support the people. They worked hard day and night in the mountains and muddy fields to erect posts and string lines. Whenever there were problems, even on holidays, they sought ways to restore power quickly. However, today, many people say that they are very worried about the banking and power sectors. Here, we will discuss only the power sector, which has many negative aspects. Now that there are sources of power, this shouldn't cause problems for consumers, either families or factories. Steps must be taken to strengthen control of power use. One reason for the power outages is that much electricity is being stolen. As the supply of electricity increases, so does waste. Last month, power losses reached an alarming rate: 30-40 percent. In the low-voltage zones, the figure reached 90 percent! (Power losses during distribution should be no more than 16 percent.) As a result, the state loses 1 billion dong a month. Unless effective steps are taken to prevent this, the above situation will grow worse. This year, it is estimated that losses will reach 15 billion dong.

The lack of effective measures to control the use of electricity and the 50-percent differential between peak and low periods have had a direct impact on the economic and technical operation of the furnaces and machinery. With respect to the low-voltage network, some stations have operated at 125 percent capacity during peak hours but at only 40 percent of capacity during low periods. During peak periods, voltage has been low and so night lights have been dim. But during low periods, there have been power surges, which have ruined many lightbulbs.

Today, the Power Service is investigating the use of power. It is hoped that the sectors, echelons, and people will support this enthusiastically. It is also hoped that the investigation will be carried out resolutely and that those who are stealing electricity will be punished regardless of who they are or their position.

After years of waiting, we now have new sources of electricity. Everything possible must be done to preserve the happiness.

#### **Dong Thap Muoi Reclaims Wasteland, Increases Grain Yields**

42090204a Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese  
14 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] In 1988, Dong Thap Muoi harvested 1.4 million tons of grain, an increase of 346,000 tons, or 32.4 percent, as compared with the previous year. This was roughly the amount stipulated in the 1989 plan. More

than 18,000 peasant households came to work here. This year, the entire region plans to reclaim 46,000 hectares of land. Long An will reclaim 20,000 hectares, Tien Giang will reclaim 5,000 hectares, Dong Thap will reclaim 15,000 hectares, and Ben Tre will reclaim 6,000 hectares. Part of this area will be used to transplant the summer-autumn rice crop. The remaining area will be used to plant industrial crops or readied for planting the 1989-1990 winter-spring crop.

Tien Giang and Ben Tre provinces have sent people to pick up soil, organize land reclamation, take people to their living quarters, and provide a number of basic facilities so that the people can quickly stabilize their lives and get to work immediately. The two provinces have invested materials and equipment and sent laborers to prepare things before welcoming the families. In conjunction with Long An, Ben Tre and Tien Giang have established control committees in the districts and villages that have recently welcomed new families.

The guidance committee for the exploitation of Dong Thap Muoi and the provinces has recommended that the central sectors, that is, water conservancy, energy, building, labor, wounded soldiers and social welfare, agriculture, and food industry, give priority to providing sources of water, repairing the roads and bridges, providing electricity, zoning the two populated areas, investing in building welfare projects, and providing tractors, agricultural machinery, and other agricultural materials to the provinces participating in exploiting Dong Thap Muoi.

#### **Nghe Tinh Province Helps Needy Farm Families**

42090224b Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese  
4 Apr 89 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed article: "Nghe Tinh Peasants Association Encourages Farmers to Develop Family Economy and Assist Each Other During Preharvest Period"]

[Text] The Nghe Tinh Peasants Association has launched an emulation movement to "conduct intensive cultivation, surpass quotas, develop family economy, improve the uniformity of life, and build a powerful association."

Gaining experience from last year, since the lunar new year [6 February], the Peasants Association has emphasized a campaign of association members developing traditions of mutual solidarity in overcoming difficulties in production and life, and preventing the occurrence of sudden grain changes during the lean preharvest months, first of all helping each other in achieving a strong winter crop in all locations where conditions permit. The farmers in Quynh Luu have planted more than 1,000 hectares of vegetables and subsidiary food crops of all kinds, and the farmers in Yen Thanh have expanded the area of winter sweet potatoes with some families harvesting up to 3 tons of potatoes. Not a few farm households have



earned high incomes through family economy. Approximately 20 percent of the households are earning 1 million dong and up annually, including 15,000 households earning 1 million to 5 million dong, 10,000 households earning 5 million to 9 million dong, and 500 households earning about 10 million dong.

The association has directed district association cadres to visit the regions commonly encountering difficulties due to natural disaster such as Ky Anh, Thanh Chuong, etc.; and to join association chapters in grasping changing developments in the lives of each farm family, and to establish a roster of households short of food during each month from now until the end of the season, first of all, the families of war dead and war invalids and troop dependent families with few breadwinners, in order to formulate assistance plans. Farmers throughout the province have contributed 13 million dong with Yen Thanh District alone encouraging households with surplus grain to make no interest loans of 14 tons of rice to needy families.

**Rice Lost on Haiphong-Hanoi Inland Waterways**  
42090224c Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese  
4 Apr 89 p 1

[Article by Phan Hung: "Losses of Rice Arriving Hanoi via Inland Waterway Three Times Stipulated Level"]

[Text] Hanoi city with a population of more than 2 million is one of the greatest grain consumption locations of the entire country. The suburban agricultural production region is only sufficient to provide the needs of the city for 1 month. Thus, during the remaining 11 months of the year, Hanoi lives through the transfer of rice purchased by the central government from provinces and through imports, primarily from the southern provinces, shipped by sea and received in Haiphong. Hanoi each month accepts and ships an average of 23,000 to 24,000 tons of rice from all sources.

Under conditions in which transportation means are too weak, comprising 300 tons of equipment equivalent to 72 vehicles, the Hanoi Federation of Grain Corporations has made efforts in deployment and operation to develop the capabilities of present transportation. However, with this number of vehicles, the federation can handle only transportation in the local area while transportation from Haiphong must wait on equipment of the central government and city.

The transportation of rice to Hanoi has long existed with losses exceeding state-stipulated levels. According to vehicle transportation regulations, the permissible loss is 1 percent while that of transportation via inland waterway from Haiphong to Hanoi is 1.2 percent.

Transportation of rice to Hanoi is through the Haiphong Level I Grain Corporation (General Grain Corporation). The Haiphong Level I Grain Corporation has long delivered goods by two formulas: one by shipping and

receiving with goods weighed at both ends which is widely applied to vehicle transportation. The strength of this delivery formula is that after accepting the entire cargo, with invoice in hand, the equipment operator is responsible for delivering that amount to the cargo master. If losses exceed the stipulated level, the equipment operator must compensate the cargo master. Thanks to this, the stipulated ratios for rice transported by vehicle from Haiphong to Hanoi have been generally ensured. Rarely, losses occur in some shipment that exceed the permissible level and the operator must pay compensation. Last year, more than 47,555 tons were shipped in government vehicles with shortages amounting to 559 tons, a loss ratio of 1.26 percent with loss compensation exceeding the ratio by 126 tons. Transportation units of the Hanoi Communications and Transportation Service shipped 48,075 tons with a loss of 504 tons, a loss ratio of 1.05 percent and 20 tons in compensation paid cargo masters. The Grain Transportation Enterprise, of the Hanoi Federation of Grain Corporations, alone shipped 11,165 tons from Haiphong with a loss ratio of only .97 percent and received a bonus of .03 percent, equal to 33 tons. The statistics above indicate that in shipping and receiving by a formula of weighing cargoes at both ends, the equipment operator has final responsibility for the assets he is transporting. Settlement is punctual, relations between the cargo master and equipment operator are equitable and losses to the state are truly lessened.

The second formula is: in transportation by inland waterway, shipping and receiving follows a formula evaluating 10 percent of the weight to figure the average weight of delivery by bag. Each year, the Hanoi grain sector receives a volume of grain transported via inland waterway equal to about 60 percent of the total volume of grain shipped in accordance with planned requirements. Due to shortages of weighing equipment at the delivery end and requirements for rapid acceptance to release the ships and storage yards in Haiphong, this formula of shipping and receiving has long been implemented. When weighed again at Hanoi port warehouses, it was seen that a 10 percent evaluation resulted in a 1.35 percent loss while weighing the entire delivered cargo by sack resulted in a loss ratio of 2.62 percent. Some rare trips have had levels up to 3 percent. The general loss ratio for last year figured by this shipping and delivery formula was 3.97 percent, more three times the state-stipulated level of 1.2 percent. Equipment operators had to only compensate for losses exceeding the stipulated level of the 10 percent evaluation, while for losses in cargoes delivered by the sack (at a 2.62 percent ratio), both sides made reports and sent them to upper echelons. Each year, Hanoi receives more than 110,000 tons of grain via inland waterway and with a loss ratio of nearly 4 percent, nearly 4,000 tons of grain are lost each year, no small volume. This is not counting the natural increase in weight due to increased moisture content in the rice.

The causes of these losses lie in many steps. First of all, it is necessary to relate the arbitrary actions taken when

filling grain sacks along with nonstandard quality and varieties, resulting in a lack of accuracy in the 10 percent evaluation of the sacks for a general count of the entire lot. On the other hand, because cargo handlers are paid too little, they steal state rice during every stage from cargo loading and en route to offloading at Hanoi port. This shipping and receiving formula also creates loopholes for collusion in grain thefts between equipment operators and personnel weighing and receiving cargo at both ends.

Clearly the shipping and receiving formula of evaluating 10 percent still has many loopholes and through each delivery phase, both sides must sit down together to formulate shortage reports for submission to upper echelons for solution. The causes for these losses have not yet been clarified and the responsibility is still not closely connected with specific individuals so the final result is that finance must make compensation or figure losses in the cost to the consumer.

The grain sector is gradually beginning profit and loss accounting, and every method to reduce expenses is being applied to improve business effectiveness. An urgent requirement of the Hanoi grain sector is to restrict and end the situation of excessive losses and attrition while en route via inland waterway. To accomplish this, heavy weighing equipment must be provided to shipping and receiving points, ensuring that 100 percent of the cargo is weighed when shipped and received. Only in this way will every loss and attrition that occurs in any phase have the responsibility clarified and appropriate compensation made.

The Hanoi grain sector as a cargo master unit must also seek understanding and select plans and equipment operators with a reputation for signing contracts ensuring that grain shipped from Haiphong to Hanoi via inland waterway does not suffer such attrition.

#### **Population Committee Reviews Family Planning Work**

42090204h Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese  
19 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] On 18 March, the Municipal People's Committee held a meeting to review the implementation of the resolution of the Municipal Congress on family planning during the past 2 years. Nguyen Khanh, the vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Pham Song, the minister of public health; Pham The Duyen, the secretary of the Municipal Party Committee; and Tran Tan, the chairman of the Municipal People's Committee, attended and spoke at the meeting.

On behalf of the Municipal People's Committee, Tran Thi Tam Dan reported on what was accomplished during the past 2 years and mentioned the coming tasks.

The three targets of the movement to implement the family planning plan are: to have children later in life, to space the birth of children, and to have few children. With respect to these targets, during the past 2 years, the city has made clear changes. The entire city has lowered the birth rate from 2.2 percent to 2.05 percent. Four wards fulfilled the plan of lowering the birth rate to below 1.6 percent. Fewer than 5 percent of the people had a third child. Gia Lam and Thanh Tri districts fulfilled the plan of lowering the birth rate to 1.8 percent and reducing the number of people having a third child to below 20 percent. Hai Ba Trung Ward fulfilled the 1990 norm of having a population growth rate of only 1 percent.

However, the birth rate has not been lowered in accord with the stipulated requirements. The target is to lower the birth rate 0.1 percent each year, but the city has lowered the rate only 0.075 percent. Another thing that needs to be given attention is that the results of the movement have been uneven. In 10 districts, the birth rate is still very high, that is, above 2 percent, and the percentage of people having a third child is 30-40 percent. In Hoi Duc District, for example, the birth rate is 2.75 percent, 39 percent of the people have many children, and 63 percent have had children in successive years.

From this, it can be seen that the leadership echelons have not seen the strategic importance of this problem. The party committee echelons have not strengthened guidance. Many places have entrusted everything to the public health sector and a number of mass organizations. The cadres and party members have not set a good example in implementing family planning.

Striving to implement the resolution of the Municipal Party Committee to reduce the birth rate in Hanoi to 1.7 percent by 1990 and to reduce the population growth rate to 1.2 percent, the wards, districts, and subwards have enthusiastically exchanged experiences in mobilizing the people to implement the family planning plan.

The city has mentioned several basic tasks that must be carried out between now and 1990:

- Build a unified management mechanism from the city to the subwards and villages and closely guide the implementation of the plans in order to make profound changes in people's thinking. Each person and sector must carry out the population and family planning tasks.

- Increase investments and expenditures in building and expanding technical services and expand birth control measures in accord with the wishes of each person.

—Organize timely reviews and summaries and provide models and suitable rewards to the bases that carry out the population work well. Criticize and resolutely punish those collectives and individuals who fail to implement the population policies and family planning plans of the state.

## SOCIAL

### Overseas Vietnamese Visit Motherland

42090222a Hanoi NGUOI CONG GIAO VIETNAM  
in Vietnamese 12 Mar 89 p 1

[Article by C.N.: "With the Spirit of Going Somewhere Together"]

[Text] Millions of our compatriots live abroad, including a fairly large number of Catholics. They left the country more than 10 years ago under many circumstances but sharing a common mood of pessimism. On the occasion of the spring of the Year of the Snake (1989), tens of thousands of distant children are returning home, eyes shining with confidence and pride because the motherland is changing politically, socially, economically, etc.

At just one port of entry, Tan Son Nhut Airport, dozens of flights have had to be added since 26 January 1989 to alleviate the wait in Bangkok for compatriots returning home. On 10 January 1989 alone, one plane had to fly continuously from 7 o'clock in the morning to 9:30 at night to bring compatriots from Thailand to Ho Chi Minh City. Learning of French, Thai, etc., aircraft returning, sufficient people from the previous month were registered.

Returning to visit the motherland is a commendable feeling of piety. Even more commendable, children who live far away have gathered together manpower to return to build the homeland such as a number of fellow "Vietnam brothers" parishioners who are building the grain storage area in Tra Noc (Hau Giang).

The Fatherland Front's new, liberalized way to look at it currently is without prejudices or preconceived notions from the past (like the Bible: "Let the dead bury the dead"). As the Vietnam Fatherland Front secretary general stated at the Ho Chi Minh City Fatherland Front congress: We "don't differentiate (compatriots) by where they come from but rather together figure where they are going."

### Ho Chi Minh City Prepares for National Population Census

42090220a Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG  
in Vietnamese 22 Mar 89 p 3

[Article by Truong Van Tien: "On the Approaching Population Census"]

[Text] Nearly 2 years ago, the Council of Ministers issued Decision 122/HDBT on holding a nationwide population census in 1989. This is the second population

census on a nationwide scale. However, if a separate census for each region and area is counted, we have four times previously held a census: during 1960 and 1974 in the north, 1976 in the south, and 1979 throughout the country. According to the Council of Ministers decision, this census will be implemented at 0000 on 1 April 1989. Ordinarily the expense for a population census is extremely great and with the present difficult economic and social situation, why are we conducting a census at this time? Compared with the first nationwide population census taken on 1 October 1979, is there anything new in the content this time? What preparations are being made by Ho Chi Minh City for this census?

### Most Precious Assets Must Be Ascertained

Along with a geographic environment and production formula, population is one of the three factors needed for maintaining and developing society. Population is an important part of the socioeconomic strategy of a country. A census is primarily aimed at gathering accurate data on the population and labor force of all society to serve in supervising, operating and managing economic planning, as the basis for formulating short and long-term plans, and for economic strategy in general and population planning in particular.

Naturally, the population issue cannot be understood simply through the aspect of size but more importantly through the aspects of population quality and structure such as the male-female ratio, age groups, cultural levels, occupations, health, ethnic structures, urban and rural ratio, population and labor distribution between regions, etc. Consequently, the information reflecting the characteristics and state of population noted above is of extremely important significance in studying population redistribution norms, the urbanization problem, measures to provide employment for laborers, etc.

### A Constantly Changing Community

According to 1979 census data, the population of our country at that time was 52,741,766. Through 10 years of following still incomplete statistical data, that figure has risen as follows: 1980—53.7 million, 1981—54.9 million, 1982—56.2 million, 1983—57.4 million, 1984—58.6 million, 1985—59.9 million, 1986—61.1 million, 1987—62.4 million, and 1988—more than 63 million. Thus, the population of our country increases each year by about 1.2 to 1.3 million people. The present population of our country is 25 times the level at the beginning of the western calendar and three times the level 50 years ago. Each day, the population increases by the number of people in one village, each month equal to one district, and each year equal to one province.

With 63 million people, our country stands 13th in the world in population but 160th in cultivated area per capita. Scientists have stated that when the population



increases by 1 percent, grain must increase by a minimum of 2.5 percent to stabilize social life. The population of our country is presently increasing by 2 percent each year, but the percentage of grain output increase is not maintaining pace, causing an increasingly severe imbalance between supply and demand and between production and consumption.

The population not only changes in size but also in quality and structure, due to the results of production, cultural, educational, and public health development, due to planned migration and spontaneous movement from one location to another, etc. Because the population is so constantly changing, on a cycle of every 10 years—in accordance with international precedent—we are conducting a census to support formulation of 5-year plans, establishment of socioeconomic development strategy and conduct of population planning during the 1990-2000 decade.

#### Clearly Recognizing New Characteristics This Time

Compared with previous times, this census will have a new content, achieving the incentive of the United Nations that "Nations must strive to investigate all 21 standards." These are the criteria that must be determined: number of males and females, ages, urban, rural, nationality, cultural, and occupational levels, etc. Another new point in this census is that we will coordinate in investigating a representative 5 percent of areas on the birth and death ratio, percentage of natural population increase, and birth potential of women by age group to serve as a basis for forecasting the population and studying and selecting measures for implementing population planning. Besides that, we will also coordinate investigation of 5 percent of households on the condition of residential housing, from this evaluating the present housing requirements of the people.

During this census, the average cost per capita is about 200 dong, fairly low when compared with other countries—1 ruble in the Soviet Union during 1979, 1 dollar in the United States during 1970, 4 U.S. dollars in Australia during 1986, etc.—but our total expenses are estimated to reach more than 12 billion dong. Although expensive, we must conduct a census because it is an objective demand of nearly all countries in the world. On the other hand, like past times, a portion of the expenses of this census will be financed by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

#### Ho Chi Minh City Prepares for Census

As the most populated city in the nation—3,293,146 people (according to the census on 1 October 1979), Ho Chi Minh City is actively preparing for this census. A year ago on 1 April 1988, the Municipal People's Committee issued a resolution establishing the Municipal Population Census Guidance Committee comprising 12

members representing departments and sectors. Assisting the Municipal Population Census Guidance Committee will be the Guidance Committee Office comprising 44 cadres divided into five subcommittees: propaganda, organization and consolidation, occupational, facility increase inspection, and administration and finance. After that, precinct, district, subprecinct, village, and town population census guidance committees were formed.

With 18 precincts and districts, more than 400 subprecincts, villages, towns, and complex residential areas, this census in the city will be difficult and expensive—estimated to cost about 1 billion dong. With approximately 10,000 census takers, the occupational training, inspection and summarization of results must have a spirit of responsibility and scientific method of work.

Members of the Municipal Population Census Guidance Committee have stated, "By the end of February 1989, the entire city had completed the confirmation of subprecinct, village, and town administrative boundaries, the drawing of housing and population point diagrams, establishment of housing, household, and individual lists, and preparation of means and expenses to support the population census. Precinct and district guidance committees have conducted occupational training and during this month of March, subprecinct, village, and town guidance committees and census takers are engaged in urgent occupational training."

#### Suburban Land Disputes Continue

42090220b Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG  
in Vietnamese 24 Mar 89 pp 1, 2

[Article by T. L.: "Solution of Suburban Land Disputes Must Follow State Policies and Decisions, Resist Arbitrary Actions; Exploitation Elimination and Absent Landlord Land, Offered Land Not Returned to Old Landlords; Land Reallocated Among Farmers Must Return a Field Income Mutually Agreed Upon by Both Parties"]

[Text] Since the lunar new year, land complaints and disputes in the rural area have greatly escalated, and the nature of the disputes has been more severe. A general estimate is that 2,200 land protests have still not been resolved, including 1,600 during 1988. This situation is due to the fact that the conception by party committee and administrative echelons in suburban villages of the directives and resolutions of the party and state on resolving land fluctuations is different in every location, so implementation is not uniform, leading to comparisons between farmers. The party committee and administrative echelons in a number of suburban villages are still rightist because the leadership cadres there are involved in the land disputes. On the other hand, districts have recently concentrated concern on preparations for district party organization congresses and have neglected supervision in the resolution of land disputes.

In a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Rural Subcommittee with the party committee echelons and standing committees of people's committees in suburban districts on 23 March 1989, Vo Van Cuong, member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee and vice chairman of the Municipal People's Committee, directed local areas to continue the resolution of land protests and disputes in a more active manner in the spirit of documents promulgated by the Council of Ministers and the Municipal People's Committee. Specifically as follows:

—Land within the purview of "exploitation elimination" (including offered land) will absolutely not be returned to the old landlord. Under circumstances in which the old landlord has difficulties, no land, or is short of land for production, the local area will supply him with village land at the average level. Anyone intentionally misappropriating land will be administratively prosecuted.

—Land with an absent landlord (including before liberation) that the local administration has divided among the farmers will not be returned to the old landlord and no farm income will be paid. If the old landlord returns home, has no trade to live, and wishes land for agricultural production, he will be supplied land at the average level from the village, his former land, or land from some other location.

—Land reallocated among the farmers will be left to them with reallocation at the average per capita level of the village, with a possible additional 3,000 to 5,000 square meters allowed. Land allocated to others must return a field income; which may be paid all at once or many times, in accordance with a percentage agreed upon by both parties. In addition, the local administration will issue a certificate confirming that agreement. Field land that farmers openly developed over a long period and used for direct production that was reallocated after liberation to other farmers or the state for the establishment of state farms, state forests, and detention camps, must return a field income or reclamation and land subsidy to the person who reclaimed the land.

#### Population Census Questions, Answers

42090219b Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG  
in Vietnamese 29 Mar 89 p 2

[Article by Truong Quan: "Questions and Answers on the Population Census;" according to data from the Central and Municipal Population Census Guidance Committees]

[Text] During the period of the population census—from 0700 on 1 April 1989 to 1600 on 7 April 1989—census takers will take population census questionnaires to each family household to directly question the head of household and each individual in the household for registration in the questionnaire columns.

[SAIGON GIAI PHONG] What questions will the census taker ask at each family household?

[Central and Municipal Population Census Guidance Committees] Depending on the age of each person, the census taker will ask all or some of the following questions:

1. The full name of persons actually residing in the household?
2. The person's relationship to the head of household?
3. Male or female?
4. Month and year of birth?
5. Nationality?
6. Residence on 1 April 1984 (5 years ago)?
7. Ability to read and write?
- 8a. Presently attending school, finished school or have never attended school?
- b. Highest level of general school attained?
- 9a. Highest level of technical speciality attained?
- b. Trained in what specialized sector?
10. Marital status?
11. What regular job held during past 12 months?
12. Primary job?
- 13a. Name of agency or unit of employment?
- b. Principal function of agency or unit?
- c. Agency or unit subordinate to what economic component?

[SAIGON GIAI PHONG] How are the questions above used for registration by age group?

[Central and Municipal Population Census Guidance Committees] The census taker will use the questions above depending on the age group stipulated as follows:

- Every member in the family will be asked questions 1 through 5.
- Persons born before 1 April 1984 (5 years old and up) will be asked three additional questions, 6, 7 and 8.
- Persons born before 1 April 1976 (from 13 years old and up) will be asked five additional questions, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 (or all of the questions above).

[SAIGON GIAI PHONG] Will the census taker ask any questions about the birth and death situation of the family household?

[Central and Municipal Population Census Guidance Committees] Aimed at accurately determining the rate of natural population increase and the birth potential of women as a basis for forecasting the population and studying and selecting measures of population planning, in this population census, census takers in a number of selected locations (not every location) will request that each head of household and women born between 1 April 1939 and 31 March 1974 (from 15 to 49 years old) answer the following two additional questions:

1. From the 1988 lunar new year to 31 March 1989, has anyone died in the household? (The head of household is asked this question.)
2. How many children did you give birth to, male, female, living, dead, etc.? (Women in the age group above are asked this question.)

[SAIGON GIAI PHONG] Will the census taker ask anything about the housing situation of the households?

[Central and Municipal Population Census Guidance Committees] With the purpose of evaluating the true housing situation of the people and the requirements for and results of housing construction during past periods, census takers in a few selected locations (the same locations selected for the birth and death census) will investigate the housing situation of households through the following questions:

1. What type of housing are you presently living in, well-constructed, semi-well-constructed, or some other type?
2. How many square meters in area?
3. What facilities are in the house? (Source of water? Electricity? A bathroom? What type?)
4. Who owns the house? (the state, private individual, collective, a religion, or ownership unclear).
5. In what year was the house constructed?

[SAIGON GIAI PHONG] Who will make entries in the questionnaire? When finished, who must sign it?

[Central and Municipal Population Census Guidance Committees] The census taker questioning the head of household and each person in the household is at the same time responsible for making entries in the questionnaire. After the questioning is completed, the census taker will read it to the head of household and both must sign the end of the questionnaire.

**Population Census Registration Procedures**  
*42090219a Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG*  
*in Vietnamese 28 Mar 89 p 3*

[Interview with Le Ngoc Hue, Chief of the Statistics Departments and Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Ho Chi Minh City Population Census Guidance Committee, by SAIGON GIAI PHONG correspondent Vo Han Lam: "Things to Know about the 1 April 1989 Population Census"; date and place of interview not given; first paragraph is SAIGON GIAI PHONG introduction]

[Text] For a clear understanding of the registration procedures for the population census on 1 April 1989, we met with Le Ngoc Hue, Chief of the Statistics Department and Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Ho Chi Minh City Population Census Guidance Committee. Following are the contents of that meeting:

[Vo Han Lam] Why was it necessary to stipulate a standard census time throughout the country?

[Le Ngoc Hue] The census time has been standardized throughout the country as 0000 1 April 1989. Thus, all children born before 0000 1 April 1989 and persons dying after 0000 1 April 1989 will be registered. Children born after 0000 and persons dying before 0000 1 April 1989 will not be registered.

Because the population is constantly changing each day and hour, to avoid duplicate registration or omission, stipulation of a standard census time was necessary. The period for conducting unified registration throughout the country is 7 days, from 0700 on the morning of 1 April 1989 to 1600 on 7 April 1989.

[Vo Han Lam] Where will the people register?

[Le Ngoc Hue] The census taker is the man on the spot, has been trained in registration, and will take a census questionnaires to each home for a direct meeting with the head of the household to register his report in the columns of the questionnaire. After registration of *individuals actually residing* in the home is completed, the census taker will read the list to the head of household and the head of household will sign his name at the end of the questionnaire.

[Vo Han Lam] So, who is within the purview of the population census?

[Le Ngoc Hue] People within the purview of the population census this time are as follows:

—Vietnamese living within the territory of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

—Vietnamese working, studying, touring, receiving treatment and engaged in short-term cooperative labor (under 6 months) in a foreign country.



—Civilian foreigners who have assumed Vietnamese nationality and are living within the territory of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Those falling within the purview of NON REGISTRATION are as follows:

—Vietnamese who have moved completely to a foreign country (including those with or without an exit visa).

—Vietnamese living and residing in a foreign country who have returned to visit their families or travel for pleasure.

[Vo Han Lam] Does the regulation for family and collective households in the population census differ from the regulation of the public security sector? Why?

[Le Ngoc Hue] In this population census, each individual within the registration purview above will be reported in a family or collective household. In the population census, family and collective households are stipulated as follows:

*Family household:* A household consisting of individuals living together who are related through marriage, family or receipt of sustenance, with an income and expenses in a common financial fund, without distinguishing whether they have or have not been separated from or integrated into a household by the public security sector.

The stipulation of a family household in the population census differs from that in household registration management of the public security sector in that: family households under household registration management must be confirmed and issued a certificate by the public security sector while those in the population census require no public security confirmation.

Registration by family household in the population census assists the state in studying the family household structure of the population and is not related to the standards of "separation" or "household" integration presently under public security management.

*Collective household:* According to the standardized regulation, a collective household is one organized and managed by agencies, enterprises, work sites, state farms, schools, hospitals, etc., consisting of individuals living together in one building (or a housing area) but each with his own income and expenses.

Families who have long registered with a collective household will be separated and counted as a family household.

A collective household is also a household of cadres, workers, civil servants, cooperative members or students engaged in vocational or self-organized occupational studies who live together, a rest home, and a "missionary" or "pagoda" established by a religious organization.

The basis for registering and reporting an individual in a household questionnaire is whether that individual is "an actual permanent resident" of that household or not.

[Vo Han Lam] So, what is an "actual permanent resident" of a household?

[Le Ngoc Hue] In accordance with the standardized regulation of the Central Population Guidance Committee, an "actual permanent resident" is an actual resident who has lived in or moved to stable residence in a household, including those who have left their former residence for 6 months or more to live in the household, without distinguishing whether or not they have been registered in the household by the public security sector.

The determination of an "actual permanent resident" for conducting a population census by each individual has absolutely no relation to the conditions for entry to or separation from a household register or household as stipulated by the public security sector but is aimed only at registering everyone without duplication or omission. Consequently, stipulation of an "actual permanent resident" for conducting the population census has no relation to and is not aimed at achieving any specific obligation or policy concerning an individual family or person.

According to the standardized regulation, those who are temporarily absent and counted as "actual permanent residents" and registered in the population of the household are: individuals who are working, receiving treatment, touring, visiting, or engaging in short-term (under 6 months) study in foreign countries; cadres, workers, and civil servants sent to work in other parts of the country (including roving assignments whether short or long-term); persons gone to engage in corvée labor, whether short or long-term; persons gone to visit their relatives, on temporary business, on a tourist trip or vacation; persons receiving treatment or therapy in hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes (not counting those being treated in leper's hospitals who will be registered at their place of treatment); persons working in other locations who only occasionally visit their family (but have no intention of living entirely in the location where they make a living); general school students living and studying in another location; persons under temporary custody or temporary detainment in places of detention managed by the public security forces and army; and cadres, workers, and civil servants serving as specialists in Laos and Cambodia, whether short or long-term.

(cadres working in the Lao and Cambodian embassies will not be registered in their family household but will be registered separately by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

If persons living or staying with a friend or relative, in temporary lodging, working as a nanny, servant, hired hand, etc. have no other place of actual permanent residence, they will be counted as an "actual permanent resident" of the household and registered along with the family household where they are living. There is no time limit set for these people concerning the interval between their arrival in the household and the census.

Persons not counted as "actual permanent residents" of the household consist of: people arriving for "temporary residence;" troops, public security personnel, and national defense employees (who will be counted separately); people sent on long-term (6 months or more) assignment, study, specialist work, or cooperative labor in foreign countries (who will be counted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs); persons studying and receiving rehabilitation in reformation camps managed by the public security forces and army (not counting those under temporary custody or detainment); persons who have moved entirely to a foreign country (whether or not with an exit visa); overseas Vietnamese visiting at home; and persons of foreign nationality who are civilian residents in a household (counted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

**Coal Miners Unpaid for Four Months**  
42090198 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese  
22 Mar 89 pp 1, 4

[Article by Tran Kham: "Coal Miners Must Bear the Consequences of 'a Chain of Debts'; Some Mines 4 Months in Arrears in Paying Salaries"]

[Text] Questions by Coal Miners

More than 70,000 coal miners in the Cam Pha, Hon Gai, Uong Bi, and Bac Thai coal mining areas posed the question, "Why, when they buy coal to produce electricity, cement, cloth, chemicals, construction materials, and many other consumer goods, do the customers not honestly pay their bills, at a time when the bank has no cash, which has resulted in coal miners not being paid in 4 months?"

That was a question posed by coal miners via their representatives, who met with the sector trade union of the Vietnam Confederation of Trade Unions between 16 and 20 March 1989.

The coal miners' representatives also described an extremely pressing situation: due to tardiness in paying salaries, the situation has become severe and has resulted in instances of some coal miners and their relatives having to do many improper things, and even break

laws, to earn money. Every day, a considerable number of workers leave early and work for private individuals so that they can have money to spend. According to the delegations, the coal miners understand the country's difficulties, but cannot understand why, although they work the prescribed number of days and fulfill the state plan norms regarding the mining of coal, they are not paid on time so they can meet the daily expenses of themselves and their families. For example, at the Cam Pha Coal Corporation customers who buy coal owe 14.32 billion dong. Among them, Electric Power Corporation 1 owes more than 9 billion dong, the Coal Supply General Corporation owes nearly 3 billion dong, and the cement mills owe 700 million dong. Meanwhile, according to the sector's contractual norms the corporation's salary fund needs 7.7 billion dong to pay the coal miners' salaries for the fourth quarter of 1988 and January, February, and March. But in fact only three workers' units have received partial payments of 20,000 dong per person, while the other mines have no money to pay salaries. Comrade Nguyen Duyet, director of the Cao Son mine, said that the mine has paid salaries only through October 1988, and when 30 miners recently went to fulfill their military obligations the mine had to borrow money and even sell the public refrigerator to obtain cash with which to pay them. Comrade Nguyen Viet Hoe, director of the Cam Pha Coal Corporation, complained that the Hai Phong Level-1 Grain Corporation is asking if it would like to buy 500 tons of rice, but the coal corporation does not have the money to buy it. Meanwhile, by the end of this month the Mong Duong and Khe Cham mines will run out of rice for the workers' meals. That is not to mention materials for production.

**"Chain of Debts"**

An abnormal situation exists in the production-commercial activities of many units: the expropriation of one another's capital, which results in a "chain of debts." The ultimate consequence is that the coal miners, who cannot expropriate anyone's capital, are not paid salaries. As of the morning of 20 March, coal customers owed 22.4 billion dong to the Cam Pha, Hon Gai, and Uong Bi corporations. Among them, Electric Power Corporation 1 owed 13 billion dong, the Coal Supply General Corporation owed 6 billion dong, the cement producers owed 1.4 billion dong, and the other customers owed 2 billion dong.

When asked why he did not pay for the coal, comrade Ngo Ngoc Hung, head of the business office of Electric Power Corporation 1, said, "It is true that the corporation still owes money for the coal it bought, but as of the beginning of March 1989 the corporation was owed 30.1 billion dong by the consumers of its electricity. There has been a big short-fall in the collection of 1988 debts that

have been carried over and for the first 2 months of the year. The ratio of collections in comparison to the amount of electricity sold is very low: 11 percent for the Ha Nam Ninh Electric Power Service, 13 percent for Thai Binh, 20 percent for Hai Phong, 45 percent for Hanoi, 53 percent for Thanh Hoa, etc. Some industrial enterprises have not paid for their electricity for the past 3 or 4 months, although electricity has been supplied to the consumers so that they can produce. In Kien An District (Hai Phong) 18 enterprises have not paid their electric bills since the beginning of the year. The Minh Khai textile Mill has requested a moratorium on its debt until the end of this month. Electricity consumers owe the Do Son electricity branch 112.9 million dong. Comrade Dang Duc Ha, director of the Hanoi Electric Power Service, said that as of 20 March the amount of money owed by its customers amounted to more than half of its income. Its major customers were the Polytechnic College, which owed 43.4 million dong; the National Economics College, which owed 5.7 million dong; the University, which owed 10.3 million dong; the Vietnam-Soviet, International, and Bach Mai hospitals, which owed 44.7 million dong; and the Television Center, which owed 4.7 million dong.

One of the biggest customers of the Ha Son Binh Electric Power Service—the Da River Hydroelectricity Project Construction General Corporation—owes it 2.5 billion dong for electricity. When asked why they had not paid, the comrades there replied that it was because "party A" (the investor in the project) had not yet received money, and "party A" said that the state had not yet provided it capital. Although the other electricity consumers replied in different ways, ultimately the reason was that they had no money to pay for it.

If coal were not sold, the production sector, especially the production of electricity, would be held back, which would exert a general effect on life and the production activities of the national economy. If coal is sold but payments are not collected, the miners receive no salaries and there is no capital with which to maintain production.

The simple demand of the coal miners, who still go all-out to mine much coal to supply to the consumers, is that they be paid salaries on time.

### Organizing Good Education for Hoa Children

42090222b Hanoi GIAO VIEN NHAN DAN  
in Vietnamese 13 Mar 89 pp 1, 2

[Article: "Satisfactorily Organize Study for Hoa Children"]

[Text] Carrying out the Council of Minister's directive on the effort toward the Hoa, the Ministry of Education has prepared a guidance circular for the entire sector.

Hoa students as well as students of other nationalities in Vietnam have been trained to become citizens of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and enjoy all the rights and fulfill all the obligations of Vietnamese citizens. Thus, the objective of training Hoa students is also the common objective of the education sector. This objective is education for students who have love for family, friends, teachers, village, and colleagues, love for socialist Vietnam, a spirit of proletarian internationalism, who defend world peace, who have equal, fraternal and cooperative relations with people the world over, who have a revolutionary code of ethics, socialist ideology, scientific world view, who have a general level of education, have been educated in labor and comprehensive techniques, have vocational guidance and tradescraft instruction, who are physically developed by age group, who know and appreciate beauty, who are well-prepared consciously and in labor capabilities in terms of themselves and families and are ready to take part in building and defending the socialist Vietnam fatherland.

In achieving this objective emphasis must be placed on educating the consciousness of the citizen, the spirit of being socialist master, and solidarity with fraternal nationalities in the greater Vietnamese family. Children should clearly see that the Hoa have lived a long time in Vietnam, are enveloped by Vietnamese nationalities, and along with all fraternal nationalities are standing shoulder to shoulder to build and defend the fatherland; there have been many examples of solidarity in productive labor and in combat between the Hoa and fraternal nationalities in the past as well as present. This has made Hoa students cherish the land on which they were born and grew up, and clearly recognize the honor and responsibility of being a Vietnamese citizen.

Achieving the above training objective, schools must satisfactorily organize comprehensive education for Hoa students according to the overall training objective and plan; they cannot arbitrarily modify or cut it back.

In day nurseries, kindergartens, and general schools, Hoa students share classrooms and schools with children of other nationalities. Hoa youths and laborers who are still illiterate are organized to learn to read and write Vietnamese fluently.

In schools with Hoa students where Hoa students and parents have aspirations of studying the Hoa language, the principal notifies the education bureau and decides to teach Hoa in its school so the students can learn to read and write Hoa. The education services will stipulate study from which class to which and for how many weeks consistent with the special characteristics of the locality. In addition to study in the school, the education bureau (with basic level general schools) or the education service



(with middle level general schools) will organize, guide, and manage extra classes for students who have the need for additional study of the Hoa language.

Advanced teachers schools and teachers colleges will train instructors to teach the Hoa language. When making selections, those who are trained as Hoa language instructors must have a definite Hoa language background in addition to overall standards; upon graduation they remain at the school for a period of time to learn more about the Hoa language and their profession.

The Ministry of Education has also given urgency to compiling and printing the course and textbook for the Hoa language in general schools.

The educational effort among the Hoa is one of the great policies of the party and state for the Hoa. Educational organizations and schools should take the initiative and work with levels of administration to satisfactorily carry out this task in the immediate period as well as strengthen and develop education for the long term.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, economic, military, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available source; it should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed, with personal and place names rendered in accordance with FBIS transliteration style.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

#### SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Soviet Union, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be

provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735, or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.

**END OF**

**FICHE**

**DATE FILMED**

**22 MAY 89**



